

## ICRC backed Israel arms sale to Iran for CIA

AMMAN (R) — Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), criticised by regulators in several countries and allegations of fraud, acted as an intermediary when Israel delivered arms to Iran for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the so-called Iran-Iraq affair, the French newspaper Libération said Wednesday. BCCI's links with the CIA were first brought up in earlier reports in the New York Times, the paper said. According to a BCCI source, Libération said the bank was nominated by the CIA when an Israeli arms trader and officials wanted guarantees before agreeing to be part of the deal. The role of the Israeli government in the deal had never been established, the paper added. "In return for its silence, the bank agreed to set up letters of credit between the two parties," Libération said. "And it guaranteed the sums exchanged in the event of problems," it said. It added that the arrangement worked perfectly throughout the Iran-Iraq war, "without in any way excluding the parallel operations" of Adnan Khashoggi.

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## Eyskens to visit Syria and Iran

BRUSSELS (AP) — Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens will leave for Syria and Iran next Tuesday for talks on the Middle East peace process and regional security, officials said. Mr. Eyskens will meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and other leading government officials to discuss the chances for a further breakthrough in the peace process. Mr. Eyskens already lauded Mr. Assad's willingness to attend a peace conference without conditions. "We consider it a breakthrough in the peace process," foreign affairs spokesman Johan Verbeke said Wednesday. "We think there is hope Israel will be inclined to participate in the peace process." Mr. Eyskens, who visited Israel last week, will travel from Syria to Iran July 26 for talks with President Hashemi Rafsanjani on regional security and relations with the European Community. Mr. Eyskens will be back in Brussels July 29.

## Velayati to hold Afghan talks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Pakistan later this month for talks on a political solution to the Afghan conflict, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. During his July 28-30 visit, Mr. Velayati will meet Pakistani officials and Afghan guerrilla groups based in Pakistan and Iran to try to evolve a common approach to the problem, he said. Pakistan and Iran, which support guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government, have endorsed a recent United Nations plan to end the 13-year-old civil war.

## Turkey to get free Saudi oil

ANKARA (R) — Saudi Arabia will give Turkey crude oil worth \$1 billion to help finance an armed forces defence fund, the foreign ministry said Wednesday. "The amount to be saved by getting oil will be diverted to Turkey's defence spending," spokesman Murat Sungar said. He said the pledge of \$1 billion worth of free oil had come in a letter from King Fahd to President Turgut Ozal, delivered by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Saad Al Faisal. Prince Saud said during a visit to Turkey last weekend that Riyadh would contribute to a defence fund planned for Turkey, a key member of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq. The United States has been trying to persuade Saudi Arabia and other wealthy Gulf countries to help finance Turkey's military modernisation, especially the purchase of a further 160 F-16 combat aircraft to be built in Turkey. The Saudi decision was made public three days ahead of a visit to Turkey by U.S. President George Bush.

"Let us all work together to



Prime Minister Taher Al Masri in a pensive mood as he attends Wednesday's session of the Lower House (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

# House votes on government today

Deputies' speeches range from constructive criticism to outright attack

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Taher Masri faces its final test today when deputies at the Lower House of Parliament cast their votes in favour of or against the government.

Today's session, during which five deputies are expected to address the House before Mr. Masri replies to the House, ends a three-day marathon in which more than 30 deputies aired their views on the government and its policy statement.

House and government sources and observers estimate the cabinet will win between 45 and 49 votes, a comfortable majority in the 90-seat House. In Tuesday's session the Muslim Brotherhood, with 23 votes, was applauded several times from the galleries.

Dr. Abdali, on the other hand, made a strong attack on the prime minister and some of his ministers. Dr. Abdali, an ex-police officer, accused Mr. Masri of receiving \$70,000 from Ahmad Chabbi, chairman of the defunct Petra Bank, which was seized by the government in 1988 for mismanagement and corruption.

Dr. Abdali, who after the formation of the Masri cabinet on June 19, had cabled His Majesty King Hussein protesting against Mr. Masri's nomination, claimed he had documents and tapes that prove some ministers were corrupt. However, he did not name the ministers.

Political analysts who assessed Mr. Masri's confidence battle vis-a-vis of his predecessor Badran described it as "mild," although there were a couple of

speeches which bordered on "outright slander against the policies of Mr. Masri himself and some cabinet members."

The strongest political criticism came from Mr. Faqir, who joined the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in accusing Mr. Masri and his cabinet of attempting to ignore Islamic sharia and uprooting Islam in Jordan.

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc had charged that Mr. Masri's

policy statement only mentioned Islam in passing and did not indicate that it was working towards spreading the message of God in Jordan. It accused the government of being formed for the sole purpose of limiting the spread of political Islam.

The same accusations were also leveled at the government by independent Islamist Deputy Jamal Saraiyah.

Mr. Masri's government is a

coalition of centre, left and right of centre political ideologies as well as economy technocrats and has excluded the Muslim Brotherhood movement although it includes two ministers from the independent Islamist bloc.

Following are some of the speeches in the House:

Ahmad Oweidi Al Abdali

Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abdali

launched a bitter attack on the new government, levelling a string of accusations at its head and members and alleging that they are involved in illegal actions on the domestic or external fronts.

Dr. Abdali criticised the media for lauding the new prime minister and his government and for describing it as one complementing the previous government and representing a coalition of all forces and political groups.

Dr. Abdali said that the present government came only to pave the ground for Israel to occupy Jordan, a move which, according to him, the former government had worked towards achieving.

Dr. Abdali noted that Mr. Masri was the nephew of a businessman who, he claimed, had provided catering for the U.S.-led allied forces during the Gulf crisis. He also said that Mr. Masri appointed his relatives and in-laws in the new government; that he had fled the country during the Gulf crisis, that he keeps close ties with Arab

(Continued on page 3)

## Saddam calls on Iraqis to work for political pluralism

### King congratulates Iraq

AMMAN (Agencies) — In his first speech in four months, President Saddam Hussein called on the Iraqi people Wednesday to forget internal differences and enter a new era of political pluralism.

President Saddam, addressing the nation in a televised speech on the 23rd anniversary of the rise to power of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, also accused allied powers of trying to undermine the party's achievements by continuing economic sanctions against Iraq.

"Pluralism will be the main pillar in the next new phase," Mr. Saddam said.

"I urge all nationalist Iraqis from all intellectual and political trends who are concerned with Iraq's sovereignty, unity and independence to turn a new page and forget the differences and contradictions of the past."

The 45-minute speech made no mention of a July 25 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to cooperate fully on disclosure of its nuclear resources or face a new allied attack on its military and nuclear installations.

"We pray to God that you celebrate this occasion next year in good health and while the brotherly Iraqi people enjoy democracy and political pluralism, protected by their army and institutions," King Hussein said.

The King said: "May God support and bless you in your undertakings until you overcome your crisis and continue your path and achieve your aspirations of progress, dignity, stability and unity."

continues the march of reconstruction of a great and prosperous Iraq within the framework of democracy and national unity."

He said the multi-party law passed by the National Assembly and awaiting ratification by the ruling Revolution Command Council would usher in a new phase in the life of Iraq's 18 million people.

The tone of his address was in stark contrast to last year when he angrily accused Kuwait of economic sabotage.

President Saddam said Iraq was the victim of conspiracies designed to reinforce Israeli

(Continued on page 5)

## Israelis break legs of 2 boys

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers broke the legs of two Palestinian boys during clashes in Idna village near Hebron in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, Palestinian sources said.

The army said it was checking the report.

Violence erupted in Idna Tuesday night and troops shot and wounded two Palestinians after an army patrol was stoned, military officials said.

Palestinians said that during Wednesday's clashes troops caught two boys, aged 12 and 13, and severely beat them, breaking their legs.

Elsewhere in the Hebron area, troops shot and wounded four other Palestinians in scattered clashes Tuesday night, the sources said.

In the Al Arrub refugee camp, Palestinians said the hand of a two-year-old boy was broken

(Continued on page 5)

domination of the Middle East.

He said the Gulf war was a battle of good against evil but there was no talk of retaliation or armed resistance.

President Saddam, 54, who marked 12 years as president on Tuesday, denounced the continuation of the trade blockade as part of a plot to destroy "all future opportunities for Iraq and its struggling people."

He said the stated reason for the sanctions had disappeared now Kuwait had returned to its previous status.

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## U.N. panel welcomes Jordan's human rights report, expects more action

From Waleed Sadi in Geneva

JORDAN Wednesday presented its second periodic report to the U.N. Human Rights Committee (UNHCR) on its level of adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Salameh Hammoud, under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, submitted the report on behalf of the government of Jordan. He was later subjected to detailed questioning on the various Jordanian laws and practices with a view to determining their compliance with the covenant's provisions.

Mr. Hammoud's presentation was characterised by a profound knowledge of the country's laws and practices and by mastery style that won the appreciation of the committee members. Above all, there was a sense of appreciation for the admission that there is more to be done in the country to complete the road towards full democracy and rule of law. Yet Amman's July 7 declaration to lift martial law was overshadowed by the continuation of the defence law of 1939. The members of the committee took issue with the fact that there is still in force a semblance of emergency rule by virtue of the retention of

the defence law.

The reply of Mr. Hammoud that there is now a new defence law that purports to extend additional safeguards and protection to detainees did not seem to satisfy the committee members.

The consensus within the committee appears to be in favour of Jordan completing what it has embarked on by repealing also the defence law even in its new form. In this context the halo of the dramatic announcement that the 24-year-old martial law was repealed was diminished considerably by the retention of another feature of emergency rule as expressed in the new defence law.

Other issues of concern of the committee members, who serve as experts and in their personal capacity, centred on equality between the sexes, nationality law, the status of the covenant in the laws of the country and matters related to the judicial system in the Kingdom, including fairness of trials.

Some members raised questions about the existing tribal justice system in the country and about the legal status on the charter that was recently adopted.

The application of the death sentence on what the members

deemed rather arbitrary and broad criteria connected with state security drew much criticism. In his rebuttal, Mr. Hammoud reminded the committee that even those who conspired against the life of His Majesty King Hussein were released, rehabilitated and given later senior posts. This, he said, is evidence that Jordan is humanistic.

He also announced that Jordan is considering ratification of the convention against torture.

The consideration of Jordan's report continues Thursday afternoon when the members will make a summation about where Jordan is still in conflict with the articles of the covenant.

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(Continued on page 3)

## Mubarak in Syria ahead of Baker

DAMASCUS, (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Syria Wednesday and held a round of talks with President Hafez Al Assad ahead of a new Middle East peace mission by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Mubarak, whose trip was not announced in advance, went straight into talks with Mr. Assad, who told U.S. President George Bush in a letter last week that he accepted U.S. proposals on the first steps towards a Middle East peace settlement.

Egypt welcomed Syria's change of position, which brought the two main Arab powers together behind a concerted Middle East peace strategy for the first time since the early 1970s.

Said Mr. Bush: "Thank you Mr. Mikhail for your invitation and before you change your mind, we accept."

The agreement pushed into the background the reluctance of the United States and its economic partners in the Group of Seven industrialised nations to provide massive financial assistance to Moscow.

A U.S. official called the agreement a "strong treaty" which represented a dramatic moment in arms control history — the first time that missiles with ranges of over 4,800 kilometres will be reduced.

The treaty will cut the overall

(Continued on page 5)

## 3 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers, including two officers, died in an overnight clash in South Lebanon, the army command said Wednesday. It was the first serious incident in the area this year.

Following the clash, villages in South Lebanon were twice bombed by Israeli fighter jets and shelled by Israeli artillery, an army statement said.

The guerrillas were apparently Lebanese, not from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose bases facing Israel were captured by the Lebanese army earlier this month, the army said.

The clashes took place overnight and military censors delayed reports on the incident for 20 hours.

The last serious incident in South Lebanon was in November 1990, when five soldiers died in a clash near Shebaa. In 1990 six Israeli soldiers died in South Lebanon. Wednesday's deaths were the first this year.

The air strikes that followed the clash were Israel's first in Lebanon since the Lebanese army took control of guerrilla bases in the south this month.

The army said the fighting took place near the village of Kar Hounech, 23 kilometres north of Israel, and outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the border.

Within hours Israeli warplanes

bombed bases of the Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist movement Hezbollah close to the village.

Lebanese sources said the Israeli planes hit targets in or near the villages of Abu Rashed, Jabbour, Toumat Niba, Louweiz and Maydon, all on mountain slopes east of the town of Jezzine, which is held by Israel and the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA).

About 3,000 SLA militiamen and 1,000 Israeli soldiers patrol the 15-kilometre deep zone set up in 1985 when the Jewish state withdrew the bulk of its 1982 invasion forces. Others hold a corridor leading north to Jezzine.

The Israelis were killed while on patrol between the "security zone" and Jezzine, Israeli military sources said.

The Lebanese security sources said Hezbollah guerrillas had made two overnight attacks on Israeli forces and the SLA in defiance of government efforts to curb guerrilla activity.

The Israeli security sources said four warplanes then attacked bases on Jabal Safi southeast of Jezzine.

A Hezbollah statement said four of its fighters were wounded east of Jezzine when a plane knocked out their vehicles.

After the air strikes, Israeli howitzers bombarded a string of villages with more than 150 shells in the same area which was bombed and strafed by the planes, witnesses said.



## House votes on Masri government today

(Continued from page 1)

businessmen known to be linked to foreign nations which keep interfering in Jordan's internal affairs, that as foreign minister, he had close and intimate relations with the U.S. ambassador, that he allegedly received a \$70,000 bribe from the manager of the now defunct Petra Bank, as reported by the first witness in the Petra Bank trials and that Mr. Masri spends more time in Europe and America than in Jordan.

Mr. Shreideh criticised rumours that allege that the new government came in order to open negotiations with Israel and said that Jordan can by no means act as a substitute for the Palestinians.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and no Jordanian government can possibly assume that responsibility," he said.

Mr. Shreideh called on the government and Parliament to enhance national unity and end differences in view of the magnitude of the heavy responsibilities facing it.

Ziyad Al Shweikh

Deputy Ziyad Al Shweikh presented a number of demands and proposals to the new government urging it to give due concern to the question of income generating projects.

Furthermore, Dr. Abbadi attacked the ministers of agriculture, tourism and others who, he said, were responsible for shameful actions while serving in government positions.

He also criticised Mr. Masri for saying that he was keen on placing the right man in the right job and said that the team of ministers are all unqualified for their positions as they became ministers because of their relations with or because of doing business with the prime minister.

Dr. Abbadi accused the prime minister of contacting Israeli personalities abroad and questioned Mr. Masri's having an American passport. He asked why Mr. Masri was not living in the West Bank and "preferred to come to the Kingdom leaving the country to the Soviet and Ethiopian Jews."

Dr. Abbadi said that Mr. Masri and his team who he claimed to have a shameful past should not be given a vote of confidence by Parliament and the people. He called on the government to submit its resignation.

**Abdul Majid Shreideh**

Ibid. Deputy Abdul Majid Shreideh reminded Parliament members that Jordan was still suffering as a result of the Gulf crisis because Parliament members and other groups supported Iraq during the crisis. He warned that Jordan, which is still facing part of the embargo imposed on Iraq, was bound to fall victim to an act of revenge on the part of those countries allied against Iraq.

Mr. Shreideh said that although the Jordanian leadership was steering the boat safely, the enemies of Jordan want to destabilise the Kingdom and investigate internal trouble and disturbances.

"Your house of Parliament was instrumental in haranguing the public to take the side of Iraq and deputes speeches were heard by various countries of the world. But you might not realise the fact that such attitude would sooner or later cause Jordan to pay the price for such a behaviour," said Mr. Shreideh in his address.

He cautioned members of Parliament to be responsible in their stands and their speeches and to avoid their previous stands that forced the Jordanian leadership to bless such attitudes out of respect for Parliament's views, with the result that Jordan found itself standing alone among countries of the world confronting Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

"Stop inflaming the feelings of people, otherwise you will expose your country and yourselves to the flame and help Israel to reap the fruits," said Mr. Shreideh.

The deputy reminded his colleagues that the Kingdom was continually facing conspiracies and dangers now more than at any time in the past.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Prince Hassan meets Army officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visited the general command of the Jordanian Armed Forces, where he was received by Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants and the inspector general. Prince Hassan held a meeting with Mr. Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

#### French-Jordanian group head arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Professor Jacques Milliez is visiting Jordan between July 15 and July 21 at the invitation of the French Cultural Section of the French Embassy. Professor Milliez is the president of the French-Jordanian Medical Association that was established in France last year. The founders are eminent medical professors and social personalities known for their friendship with the Arab World. In addition, Professor Milliez is the president of the Euro-Arab Medical Association and the International Federation for Health Promotion. During his visit, Professor Milliez will meet with Jordanian officials, especially in the health and welfare fields, besides visits to different hospitals and health institutions. Professor Milliez will deliver few lectures during his stay. The Jordanian-French Medical Association is actually under creation in Jordan at the initiative of Jordanian doctors and personalities most of whom graduated from France.

ment would adopt a clear strategy in preparing its policies and programmes so as to avoid failure.

He proposed that the government set up a specialised council for every ministry to programme its policies and strategies. "Thus, the policies of the ministries will not be exposed to abrupt change and moody behaviour," he said.

**Matir Al Bustanji**

Deputy Matir Al Bustanji focused attention on a number of domestic areas with special attention being given to agriculture in Jordan.

Mr. Bustanji, who is rapporteur to the Independent Islamic Bloc, said that he hoped the new government would work out plans to enable Jordan to become self-reliant, gradually free itself from importing food and reducing the volume of external debts.

Mr. Bustanji said that by boosting agriculture, the government would be helping to put a stop to the move of people from rural to urban regions, especially in the south where conditions for farmers are worsening following the flood storms in the past winter that caused a lot of damage to the crops and agricultural infrastructure.

"In the 1970s, Jordan was self-sufficient of milk, meat and table eggs. But now the country imports 90 per cent of its wheat and animal feed and a lot of other food commodities and this is largely due to the lack of incentives given to the farmers and the improper agricultural policies prompting the farmers to abandon their land," he said.

Mr. Bustanji called on the government to stem the importation of consumer goods to save hard currency and to give due attention to the development of the rural regions through promoting the work of municipal and rural councils.

The deputy said that promoting rural life, the government can succeed in stemming the move of people from rural to urban regions.

"We need to see proper agricultural plans to help the country overcome its requirements and we need to have universities turning out competent engineers that are able to help the country boost production," Mr. Bustanji said.

**Yousef Mubayedin**

Deputy Yousef Mubayedin, who speaks for the Constitution Bloc in Parliament, said that he had scrutinised the government's policy statement and determined his vote depends on the government's replies to his queries.

Mr. Mubayedin said that the government's statement was full of promises about health insurance, cost of living, and dealing with unemployment etc. But all the deputies, as well as the government leaders, realise the limited means the government has in the light of the 1991 fiscal budget.

He said he wanted the government to revise its promises and be specific and to win the support of Parliament and public.

Referring to the government's policy regarding education and higher education, the deputy said that he found not a single sentence pledging to adopt any programme to promote Islam and Islamic education in schools. He suggested that the government re-examine its position in this respect.

On foreign affairs, he said that the government failed to give specific about its position with regard to the settlements proposed to the Arabs by the Western nations and also on the government's intention to heal the rifts within Arab ranks.

**Nawwaf Al Khawaleh**

Deputy Nawwaf Al Khawaleh from the National Bloc told the session that the government's policy statement was comprehensive, covering all issues of concern to Jordanian citizens.

Mr. Khawaleh criticised those who waste the time in rhetoric while doing nothing in practice to serve their country. He urged the government to give due attention to the questions of unemployment, the soaring cost of living and the state of agriculture. He said that he would support the government.

**Mahmoud Hweimel**

Deputy Mahmoud Hweimel praised the government for announcing its intention to deal with matters of concern to the southern regions of the country.

Mr. Hweimel said that the southern regions, more than other provinces in the country, are plagued by unemployment, poor farming and limited means of income. The government, he said, can give due attention to the farming and water supply problems in the south and reschedule the farmers' debts in order to stimulate agricultural life in the various regions of southern Jordan.

In the past winter season, Mr. Hweimel said, the farmers of the south lost about 90 per cent of their crops and lost their income

this year.

Together with the accumulating debts, the farmers can no longer survive without government subsidies and immediate assistance, Mr. Hweimel said.

The deputy also urged the government to conduct a scientific study on the polluted water and to determine the causes of the damage to the crops as soon as possible.

Mr. Sharari demanded that the government reschedule farmers' debts and give greater attention to the unemployment problem in the southern regions of Jordan.

Mr. Sharari said that Parliament had heard a great deal of promises from the past governments and now it bears new promises from the government of Prime Minister Taha Sharari.

**Hasni Al Shiyab**

Deputy Hasni Shiyab focused Parliament's attention on the need to bolster national unity and said that any ideological or political splits in the country or any exploitation of the faith was bound to bring about collapse.

Dr. Shiyab said that the government ought to re-examine the composition of the cabinet by involving all the groups and factions so that it can be rightly called a coalition government. He said national unity is a strong weapon Jordan has been holding against its enemies and the time has come to boost such unity by all possible means.

What the government should address is the deteriorating economic and social conditions affecting the majority of the population. Such matters, if properly handled, can further enhance national unity, he said.

**Bassam Haddadin**

Zarqa Deputy Bassam Haddadin called for the continuation of cooperation among the active political powers in Jordan for the interest of the country and its people.

We wish that all political parties which took part in drafting the national charter participate in the Masri cabinet to make it a national charter government in shape and content," he said.

He said his Democratic Bloc, on which behalf Deputy Fakhr Al Qasim delivered a speech Tuesday, was keen on safeguarding the democratic process and providing it with the suitable climate to guarantee its success.

He said he would forgive the government if it fails to achieve some of the programmes it mentioned in its policy statement but would never forgive it if it overlooked the need to distribute the burdens of the economic crisis on all members of the society rather than on the working class only.

**Ali Al Faqir**

Amman Deputy Ali Al Faqir said he did not view Mr. Masri's government as a negotiations government "but a government to prepare for negotiations if Israel agreed to the principle of peace."

"I reassure you there will be no negotiations because I base my argument on (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's) stubbornness even if we give more concessions than is required," he said.

One of Mr. Masri's advantages that should be taken into consideration, he said, is that the government was clear in expressing its identity through the quality of its members. "It distanced itself away from flattery and hypocrisy and expressed itself eloquently," Mr. Faqir said.

Mr. Faqir asked the government to state its position on the stage that will follow the negotiations "if they take place," and what it will do if such negotiations did not take place.

**Hisham Al Sharari**

Deputy Hisham Al Sharari addressed the session demanding that the government give more attention to the people's army and the agricultural sector. He said that the government should set up a special fund to compensate farmers for their losses and should lift a ban on drilling artesian wells in the Ma'an district which he represents.

According to a Cultural Ministry spokesman, the Jordanian National Theatre's pursuit will be to set a high standard in the local theatre production by elaborating local cultural heritage and incorporating it into modern day drama productions.

With this goal in mind, Dr. Khalid Karaki formed the Supervising Committee on Jordanian National Theatre project, which is assigned to elaborate and finalise the project. The members of the committee are:

Dr. Hani Nobari, the director of the committee, Mr. Hatem Al Said, Nabeel Al Mashini, Jamal Awad and Mohammad Kabani.

Mr. Al Said, a member of the committee, told the Jordan Times that the committee had finalised the project and had submitted it to Dr. Karaki for

### U.N. panel welcomes report

(Continued from page 1)

including the reasons behind such a declaration and the rights that have been suspended because of the existence of a state of emergency in the country.

Article 4 states that "in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and the existence of which is officially proclaimed, the state parties to the covenant may take measures derogating from their obligations under the present covenant to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation."

Paragraph 2 of the same article stipulates that "no derogation from articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15 and 18 may be made under this provision."

Article 15 speaks against the retroactive application of criminal laws.

Finally Article 18 provides that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

In other words such basic rights cannot be suspended even when a state of emergency is in force.

Clearly Jordan has not met all its obligations under the covenant.

On the other hand, no one expects it to either. The purpose of the dialogue between the committee and the government of Jordan is to help it improve its civil and political rights situation in a bid to comply at the end with the terms and principles of the covenant."

Article 7 prohibits torture, cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment.

## New English examination session to be held for West Bank tawjih students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education has decided to organise a new examination session in English for West Bank tawjih students now that it is convinced that the English language examination was the only one tampered with and was conducted in an atmosphere without discipline and where cheating was rampant.

The decision was announced here by the Director of the Ministry's Examination and Evaluation Department, Dr. Mohammad Sayed Obeidat, who said that members of examination committees in the West Bank recently visited the ministry in Amman and emphasised this fact.

The move to suspend the tawjih examinations in the West Bank was taken earlier this month because of alleged cheating and lack of discipline in the examination halls. The move was supported by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The suspension followed reports that the Israeli authorities had opened the examination halls and allowed irresponsible elements to sabotage the examination process with the purpose of creating anarchy, according to PLO Executive Committee Member Abdul Razzaq Al Yahya.

Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri had said that the resumption of the examination would take place once a

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favourable educational climate was guaranteed for the 12,000 tawjih students in the West Bank.

In his statement Wednesday to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Obeidat did not disclose when the examination would be held but said that the examination committee in the West Bank would deal with this matter later.

In his statement on July 8, the PLO official voiced appreciation to Jordan for its continued cooperation with the PLO's Higher Education Department in organising the examination and running school curricula in the West Bank despite difficulties.

## RJ inaugurates flights to Colombo

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) Wednesday launched its new route to Sri Lanka in implementation of an agreement concluded last month with Air Lanka (UL) providing for twice weekly flights between Amman and Colombo.

The Amman-Colombo-Amman route was agreed on between the two airlines which said in a statement on June 29 that they would be operating joint services along this route.

An RJ statement said that the joint service agreement, which was concluded last month, provides for flights between the two capitals on board RJ's Airbus 310

on Wednesdays and Fridays. This service will open new scopes of air travel between Sri Lanka and Jordan and the Middle East, North Africa, western and southern Europe, the U.S. and Canada, the RJ statement said.

Previously, passengers from Jordan and the surrounding countries had to travel to Sri Lanka using more than one airline and making an overnight stop in the Gulf region.

According to the RJ statement, the service is assured success by the joint marketing to be conducted by both national airlines thanks to the connections provided in Amman by RJ and in

Colombo by UL.

On board the first direct flight to Colombo Wednesday were RJ Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh, Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director Jamal Balqaz and Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul in Jordan Tawfiq Abu Khajael.

Also on board were representatives of tourist and travel offices, senior RJ officials and representatives of the Jordanian media.

During the visit to Colombo, RJ and UL will formally sign documents inaugurating the new route.

## New national theatre to set new standards in local production

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After 25 years of efforts exerted to establish a professional theatre in the Kingdom, the Jordanian actors, artists and theatre-goers welcomed the announcement by Dr. Khalid Karaki at the closing ceremony of the first Jordanian theatre festival last week, of the establishment of the Jordanian National Theatre.

According to a Cultural Ministry spokesman, the Jordanian National Theatre's pursuit will be to set a high standard in the local theatre production by elaborating local cultural heritage and incorporating it into modern day drama productions.

With this goal in mind, Dr. Khalid Karaki formed the Supervising Committee on Jordanian National Theatre project, which is assigned to elaborate and finalise the project. The members of the committee are:

Dr. Hani Nobari, the director of the committee, Mr. Hatem Al Said, Nabeel Al Mashini, Jamal Awad and Mohammad Kabani.

Mr. Al Said, a member of the committee, told the Jordan Times that the committee had finalised the project and had submitted it to Dr. Karaki for



Khalid Karaki

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## Checking the fall

WE AGREE with the honourable deputies in the Lower House of Parliament that our nation, whatever one might choose to call it, Arab or Muslim, stands at the lowest point in its history. The nation is weak, mostly poor, backward, corrupt and defeated. We agree that our salvation will have to come from within. That in the struggle to regain our identity and our lost might and to confront the dangers and the challenges posed on us by our enemies we have a formidable task that requires tremendous joint efforts on behalf of all the political and social factions in society at large and in Parliament in particular.

In our struggle with our enemies, we have all the time been pushed downhill and our fall has been all the time accelerating.

In their attempts to completely defeat us, our enemies have always endeavoured to make us battle among ourselves while they prepared for the next encounter. At one time or the other, we must reverse this trend. Not that we want to get revenge or beat the intransigents. It is in the essence of our religion and our civilisation that we are believers in peace, not only for ourselves but for humanity at large. To reverse the trend of our downhill fall, we must first stop the fall. We must create a breathing space for ourselves. We need peace. We certainly must not capitulate. In all our wars we have lost miserably. The latest, the Gulf war, is the best example. Whether we were dragged into that war or not, in the final analysis it is our responsibility to make sure we are not being forced to fight wars we are not ready for. That has been the situation in almost all our wars. And even worse, we have always fought our wars totally dependent on others, among them our so-called enemies, for the arms we use. And our peoples had always to endure the losses, both human and material, of these wars. The fact that nationalists failed in all the wars they fought against the enemy should not be an excuse for the religious to wage new wars, especially when they talk of new methods whose main ingredient is the human being.

We strongly agree with both Islamists and nationalists that the nation's historical rights must not be sacrificed. But this nation deserves a truce with its enemies but firstly with itself. If the final battle we hear about is going to be a nuclear holocaust that will end life in this region of the world, then we should think: Is this the will of God? Is this inevitable? Our deputies, whether secular or religious, must realise it will take a considerably long time for us to prepare ourselves to stand up to our enemies. Meanwhile, we have a responsibility to concentrate on our internal front, to address all the causes of our weaknesses and backwardness. And if to do that we need a truce with our enemies, then why not?

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday emphasised the role of the media which it described as a monitor of various behaviours and actions on the part of the government and Parliament. Newspapers are careful to publish only the facts and are keen on being fair and just, but at the same time they can by no means compromise the basic principles, the daily noted. The newspaper said that the local media is careful to maintain strong ties with all parliamentary blocs based on mutual confidence and amity, but newspapers can by no means condone any sins or deviations or overlook blunders because that would be tantamount to treachery and abuse of trust. In an obvious response to criticism levelled at the local media by a number of deputies in Parliament for allegedly attacking members of parliament's views, the daily said that the press respects everybody in Parliament although the two parties do not see eye to eye on every point. It is only democratic to bear constructive criticism which is the right of the people and the press which must air their views freely and with all confidence, the paper added. The daily said that there is real need for parliament members to understand and appreciate the role of the press which is bent on joining the deputies efforts to serve the nation.

A columnist in Al Dustour Arabic daily expressed regret over a campaign launched by members of parliament against the local press. Some elements in the legislative and even the executive authorities are not happy about the local press' dealing with different topics at a time when these two authorities ought to joint efforts to ensure further freedom from the press in view of the democratic process going on in Jordan, said Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud. The writer noted that one of the newly appointed ministers has been quoted as threatening to sue some of the Jordanian journalists in court because his departments were exposed to some criticism due to lack of competence. This threat is totally rejected by the journalists and the press at large; because it can never intimidate the writers who want to expose the facts to the public. One of the deputies was quoted as accusing journalists of selling themselves to the devil and trying to undermine the Islamic faith in Jordan, said Daoud. We had wanted to be convinced that the parliament and government members were really exposed to undue campaigns in the press, but the facts indicate otherwise, said the writer. He said that it should be emphasised that the press has a noble role to play and that is to call attention to the errors and abuse of authority so that reform can be introduced and mistakes avoided.

## G7 backs greater U.N. intervention role in internal conflicts

By Patrick Worsnip  
-Reuter

LONDON — With a declaration on boosting the role of the United Nations, the Group of Seven has thrown considerable weight behind the idea of intervening in countries where human rights violations threaten world peace.

Despite continuing lip-service by the major powers to the sanctity of countries' control over their internal affairs, the trend will inevitably be seen as modifying traditional ideas of state sovereignty enshrined in the U.N. charter.

The turning-point came earlier this year when the U.S.-led allies followed up their victorious campaign to drive Iraqi invasion forces out of Kuwait by entering northern Iraq to protect Kurds from suppression by the Baghdad government.

Since then, Western countries have been saying ever more loudly that in the "new world order" promised by the end of the East-

West cold war, the international community cannot allow gross breaches of human rights in the name of sovereignty.

But the movement is likely to face opposition from the world's remaining communist countries and many Third World nations which will see it as a new attempt by Washington and its allies to impose their ideas on others.

In their summit declaration on Tuesday the G7 — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada — hailed the "exceptional action" taken in Iraq by the international community under U.N. auspices.

"We urge the U.N. and affiliated agencies to be ready to consider similar action in the future if the circumstances require it," the statement said.

"The international community cannot stand idly by in cases where widespread human suffering from famine, war, oppres-

sion, refugee flows, disease or flood reaches urgent and overwhelming proportions."

The declaration sugars the pill of intervention by blending it with enticing proposals for improving the U.N. disaster relief role, appointing an aid coordinator, speeding up supplies and boosting its crisis-warning mechanism.

This, the G7 proclaims, will restore to the world body the role which its founders envisaged after World War II but which was paralysed by the U.S.-Soviet ideological and military standoff that only ended in the late 1980s.

The sticking point, where intervention is concerned, has always been paragraph 7 of article 2 of the U.N. charter, which declares that the U.N. shall not interfere in matters "essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any staff."

To its critics, this clause has been a shield for totalitarian governments to carry out brutal rep-

ression of their people without regard for the outside world.

The proposal now is to emphasize other clauses in the charter which allow U.N. action if the Security Council finds that the situation in a given country threatens international peace and security.

When the Security Council condemned Iraq's suppression of a Kurdish revolt last April, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering argued that the council was entitled to respond to the concerns of Iraq's neighbours Turkey and Iran.

France, which has campaigned for some time for a re-think of the concept of non-interference, saw a chance opening up. "I believe the Kurdish crisis could act as a detonator," Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said.

Austria has said that at the U.N. General Assembly later this year it will call on the world body to state unequivocally that defence of human rights should not

be seen as interference in a country's internal affairs.

And German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher favours establishing a U.N. court of human rights where those guilty of crimes against humanity, peace or the environment could be indicted and convicted.

Some have suggested a U.N. standing force to give teeth to the world body's peacekeeping role, but British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said at the G7 summit on Tuesday that this was "not apt for practical purposes."

"It probably is easier and better to mobilise the necessary resources for each particular occasion," he told a news conference.

The 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) took a modest step last month when it set up a mechanism for emergency debate on crises in a member state.

Many Western countries will also be keen not to let the process go too far. Britain, for one, will not welcome any outside attempt to dictate its policies in Northern Ireland.

Moves to boost the U.N.'s intervention role are likely to run up against similar problems. The Soviet Union and China, both veto-holding permanent members of the Security Council, do not belong to the G7 and are unlikely to agree to anything which could tie their hands in, say, the Baltic republics or Tibet.

It soon put this into action by calling a meeting on the civil strife in Yugoslavia, a country

## Radicals refuse to lift curtain on Muslim Iran

By Françoise Chipaux

TEHRAN — Mellat Park becomes crowded in the cool evening. Along the meticulously tended alleys and around banks of well-watered flowers families picnic and young people stroll about. Tehran's busy parks give this sprawling city, where most of the revolutionary slogans have been recently cleaned, an attractive look that the strict clothing worn by the women barely belies. If, as some hold, wearing a coloured headscarf that does not meet official specifications because it does not hide all the hair is a silent protest against the Islamic order, then dissent must be widespread here. And again more well-to-do women often prefer to wear a raincoat reaching their ankles rather than the regulation black chador.

Two years after Khomeini's death, revolutionary fervour has clearly abated. Even the memorial services for the late imam did not fire Tehran's crowds, who looked on condescendingly as tens of thousands of out-of-town and foreign pilgrims rolled into the city in coaches.

Now the war with Iraq is over, the Iranians want to live again and tend to shun these endless rituals of death which are so much a part of Shi'ism. As the crowd sobbed in chorus around us, one girl student told me that "instead of spending our time bemoaning the world's misfortunes (on the anniversary of Khomeini's death), we ought to get down to rebuilding the country."

For the Iranians, rebuilding the country — the regime's prime objective — means better living conditions and more or less implicitly the removal of the social and cultural straitjacket imposed by the revolution which no longer has any external excuse for justifying attitudes that were never really accepted.

Under the circumstances, attempts by President Rafsanjani and his supporters to open up the country are going down better with the public than appeals for revolutionary rigour coming from the regime's "hardliners." "True he (Rafsanjani) is a mullah, but he's better than the others," say some Iranians who see in this "man of the moment" the only change of hope.

Eighteen-year-old Farah was held for five days in this sinister building before being released by a judge who was too busy to examine her case. Her crime: she wore shoes considered too fine and delicate for the liking of her bearded censors. During their detention, two young pregnant women were sentenced to 15 lashes for wearing make-up even though they had committed no offence of thievery or lies.

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Parliament remains the radicals' main forum and the struggle between the two factions has sharpened with the approach of the 1992 general election. This is sustaining a mood of uncertainty in the country which is hardly conducive to restoring confidence and attracting expatriates and foreign investment.

Spearheaded by a score of deputes, the radicals pull no punches and attack practically every governmental decision or initiative aimed at opening up the country. Mr. Rafsanjani himself is not spared in a campaign waged through two newly established dailies, Salam (Salvation) founded by Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Musavi Khoeniha a leader of the

group which occupied the American embassy in 1979, and Jahan-e-Eslam (The World of Islam) founded by Hadi Khamenei, brother of the Republic's Guide, who claims to be hewing to Khomeini's "revolutionary line." The more moderate tone of the two big dailies, Keyhan and Islamic Republic, is responsible for the emergence of these newspapers which provide the hardliners with a forum for addressing at least their followers, as the public at large scarcely pays any attention to them.

Inviting expatriates to return home, encouraging foreigners to invest in the country and opening up to the outside world for rebuilding and developing the country — all this is seen by hardliners as departures from Khomeini's line which everybody now puts his own interpretation on to legitimise his own action, for the imam's heritage is still largely the only thing the revolution's leaders have in common.

Government attempts to woo exiles back — it has organised several meetings in Tehran and abroad for this purpose — run into fierce criticism from hardliners like Ayatollah Khalkhali who recently declared: "It's I who seized these people's property on imam Khomeini's orders. And we're still around. The revolutionary courts are also still around and we won't let these people get away with it." What guarantees can expatriates be given when, for example, the revolutionary committees, which on paper were attached to police or gendarmerie services more than a month ago, continue to operate with impunity?

Secure in their headquarters on Khaled Istanbul Street (named after the man who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat), very many of these committee members reject the idea of allowing expatriates to return.

They cruise around in their Japanese-made jeeps looking for women who do not scrupulously respect their highly personal interpretations of Islam. All that families can do is hang around outside this big block bristling with communications aerials and wait for their loved ones to emerge — a daughter, wife or mother who has been roughly seized in the street and frequently deprived even of the means of telling their families.

For the moment, "the hardliners will be won for good only if Rafsanjani manages to turn the economy around. But can he do that without taking tough measures against the radicals whose continual berating of the government is holding up the restoration of confidence?"

Noted one foreign expert: "If Rafsanjani gives people the impression he is really out to improve their lot, then they will stop being tempted by the radicals' siren calls. But if he fails, in a country where corruption is widespread, it won't be difficult to make the government out to be a bunch of thieves and liars."

"For the moment," observed another expert, "the hardliners are waiting for a change in the regional or international economic situation to help them in their designs. They have not relinquished their ambition to hold power and could turn dangerous if they feel threatened with total elimination."

The struggle between the state and the revolution remains inconclusive, even if the machinery of the former appears to have won over the latter. The support Mr. Rafsanjani receives from the members of the clergy in Khomeini's native city of Qom is contingent on their faith in the president's capacity to liberalise the economy without touching their powers. But if he manages to vanquish the radicals, will he not be forced to open the regime up to men who do not belong to the Islamic establishment now making the running?

Doubtless aware of his precarious position, Mr. Rafsanjani appears to be seeking a new legitimacy in a reconciliation of Iran with itself. And with this in view he keeps harping on Persian

Hojjatoleslam Mohtashemi answers: "These two countries are bastards of the United States, the fundamental dispute is with America."

The hardliners, who are in a majority in the parliament, recently proposed a draft bill aimed at removing the reference to "religious belief and the practical commitment to Islam and the Islamic regime" which is necessary to be eligible to stand for election. It denies the Supervisory Council (constitutional council) the right to decide on candidates' abilities. The radicals, some of whose members do not recognise the Guide's authority, in fact fear the reference might be utilised to reject their candidacies and deny them their last stronghold, the parliament. It is practically certain the bill will be thrown out and President Rafsanjani will doubtless be able to obtain at the next general election a house loyal to him which will uncomplainingly vote the constitutional amendments imperative for setting up a modern economy. But that will not be enough to reassure all those concerned about the future of a process that is already very vulnerable.

The fight against the hardliners will be won for good only if Rafsanjani manages to turn the economy around. But can he do that without taking tough measures against the radicals whose continual berating of the government is holding up the restoration of confidence?

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nationalism. Visiting Persepolis in April — the first such visit since the revolution by a leading figure in the regime — he declared: "Standing in the middle of these centuries-old ruins, I feel the nation's dignity was all-important and must be strengthened. Our people must know that they are not without a history."

Symbolically concentrated in a cluster of buildings in central Tehran, the Islamic Republic remains a closed society where people watch one another and pounce on the slightest fumble. The absence of a credible alternative is of course helping Mr. Rafsanjani who as long as he has the Guide of the Republic's backing will no doubt continue moving cautiously forward. But until a state is established where the rule of law prevails and minimum civil rights are guaranteed, it is difficult to see Iran attaining the equilibrium necessary for any sensible management of the country. This is the one hope held by Iranians who are witnessing a steady worsening of their living conditions daily.

**Safe guarding** I'm a m

Khomeini's heritage, making it sufficiently attractive for all Iranians to take part in their country's renewal, and turning Iran into a regional power once more: this is the challenge facing President Rafsanjani. And it is like squaring the circle — Le Monde.

**JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY**

Ordinary issue No 13



Drawing of: July 17, 1991

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July 18, 1991 A

Published Every Thursday

## Iraqi musician seeks Western horizons

By Serene Halasa

*Special to the Jordan Times*  
AMMAN — He is defying his world and his culture. He wants to break the chains of tradition. Armed with ambition and a deep rooted talent, Iraqi-born singer Qassem Sabunji has already made a name for himself in Jordan, and is seeking to do the same outside the Arab World.

His fascination with music started at the age of three, in an interview with the Weekender, Sabunji fondly remembers his first music instrument. "I saw an accordion at a music shop and cried until my parents bought it for me," he recalled. "It was then that I discovered I loved music."

Following his first experience with the accordion,

Sabunji got hold of his first guitar. "I was seven years old, and I loved my guitar. It was the fashion back then to own one," he explained.

His fascination with music grew as he became older, and his ambition was to become a "professional" singer. "But that was unheard of in Iraq, especially for males. Music was just a hobby not a career," he said.

Obsessed with music, Sabunji embarked on a self-learning path and taught himself to play different kinds of musical instruments. "I don't read notes, I depend on my musical ear," he asserted.

In order not to estrange himself from his family and society, Sabunji enrolled at the University of Jordan where he got his Bachelor's

Degree in business administration. And although he agreed to do that, music was still in his soul, and he refused to give up his dream of making it big.

After he graduated, Sabunji joined a popular band in Jordan, and worked with them for a year. "It was not what I wanted, but it was fun and I gained a great experience," he said. "But with time I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to compose and play my own music."

The first time he started composing music was in 1985. He incorporated in his music different styles that suited the time.

Sabunji believes that "it is important for a singer to take in and teach himself all styles of music."

Among some of his famed achievements are nine songs which he composed during the Gulf crisis last August. Sabunji explained that the style he used in composing those songs was different from regular Arabic songs. "They are close to Ziad Rahbani's style of musical composition." He improvised the songs to give them a Western style, he added.

Sabunji also composed an English song entitled *Children Of The World*, which was used in a documentary about Iraq. "Children Of The World is about us — the people of the world — it is for Iraqis and everybody," he said.

Reflecting on the plight of his homeland following the war, Sabunji said that his

music, especially the most recent ones, mirrored a certain atmosphere in his war-torn country. "I express myself in my music," he said. "And one should always be able to transpose and reach the audience through music."

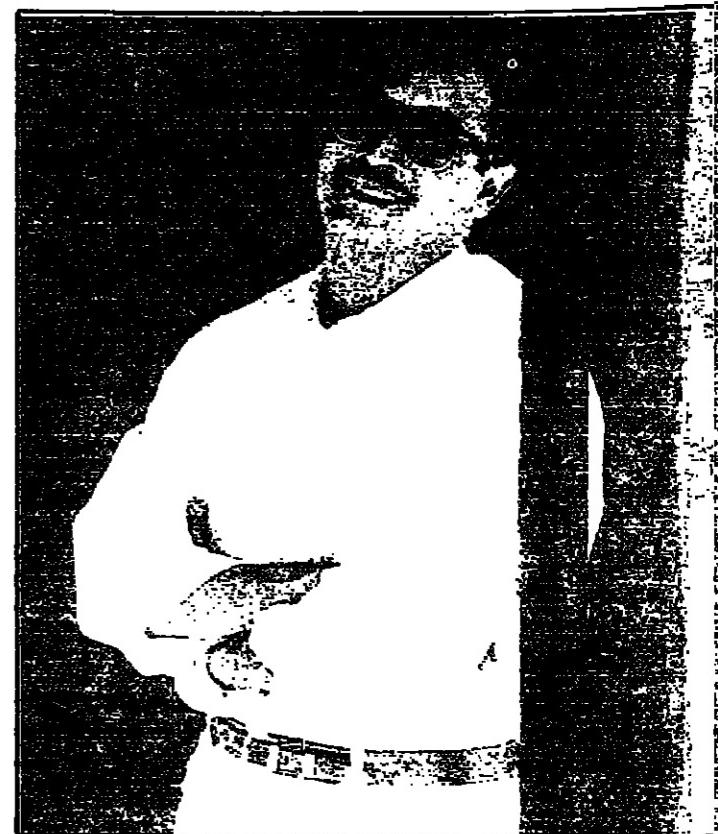
The 28-year-old singer said he was proud of his achievements so far, but felt that he was still "green" in many ways, especially in a profession such as his. "It's a jungle out there," he said. "I want to improve my talent, but I need help and backup from the right people."

Sabunji said he felt that the Arab World in general has still a long way to go in accepting professional singers. One major problem is the lack of copyright laws that protect a musician's composition.

Sabunji explained that without copyright laws artists, singers, and writers do not get credit for many of their creations. "When an artist is protected, then his financial income doubles, even triples, and his creativity increases, especially if he feels that his work is appreciated."

"Music is music and (that is why it) should not be restricted to people who do it for the money," he said. "It's sad — having no copyright laws is a sad thing."

Sabunji wants to try his luck in the Western World, hoping that he would be able to break the chains of tradition and make a name for himself professionally."



Qassem Sabunji

(Photo by Cathy Hanafi)

## Belgium honours creator of cartoon globetrotter Tintin

By Kristin Kranenberg

Reuter  
BRUSSELS — Belgium's bland but beloved globetrotter, cartoon hero Tintin, is spending a summer at home.



Herge's self-portrait, showing him chained to a drawing board, with him are (from left) Captain Haddock, Tintin, Dr. Calculus and the twins Thomson and Thompson.

The young reporter, whose adventures solving crimes and mysteries from Peru to China left him little time to do his job as a journalist, is starring in two exhibitions.

Organisers claim the exhibition that opened last month in Welkenraedt, eastern Belgium, is the biggest ever devoted to Tintin's creator, the late Georges Remi — better known under his penname of Herge — and his colourful cast of characters.

Admired by people as diverse as the late French President Charles de Gaulle and pop artist Andy Warhol, Tintin's round, innocent face and distinctive quiff of ginger hair have endeared him to millions around the world since he first appeared in a weekly magazine in 1929.

"Tintin is known by everybody, through all generations," said Maria Randisi, whose advertising agency has devised a poster for Belgian mineral water showing a man and his grandson equally absorbed in a Tintin album.

In cartoon-mad Belgium, Herge reigns supreme. Another collection of Tintin books and gadgets is about to

go on display in the town of Bruges, on the other side of the country.

"Fifteen years after the appearance of the last Tintin album, Tintin mania is flourishing as never before," he said.

The Flemish newspaper *De Standaard* said recently.

The exhibition at Welkenraedt includes a pyramid of Tintin albums in different languages. The 23 books have been translated into 41 languages, most recently Hungarian. They have sold more than 140 million copies.

Also on display are Herge's first drawings, made in the early 1920s for a Boy Scout magazine, and his original artwork for the Tintin albums.

Most of the items belong to Belgian actor Stephane Steeman, a lifelong fan and collector of Tintin memorabilia. He organised the show with local authorities.

There is a mock-up of the

opium den from *The Blue Lotus*, the 1935 adventure set in China, and a range of cardboard mountains to recreate the atmosphere of *Tintin In Tibet*.

Broken glass on the exhibition hall floor is supposed to be the product of the shattering voice of opera singer Bianca Castafiore, the only prominent female in the albums.

Tintinologists think the hero's lack of any real character is one of the main reasons for his success.

"Tintin is easy to identify with because he has no outstanding traits," said Patrice Cros, who works in a smart shop selling Tintin memorabilia in the centre of Brussels.

Products range from a simple T-shirt costing \$19 to a big statue of the reporter and his loyal dog Milou (Snowy in English) for \$160.

Cros said Tintin's com-

rades — the whisky-guzzling Captain Haddock and the incompetent detectives, the Thomson twins — more than make up for the reporter's own lack of character.

Tintin admirers also say Herge, who died in 1983, set new standards in bright, distinctive cartoon art.

But the author faced charges that his albums were racist, portraying Africans and other ethnic groups as semi-literate and inferior to white people.

He was also accused of collaborating with the Nazis when they occupied Belgium during World War II by writing stories for a German-controlled newspaper.

Those allegations matter little to Belgians, who regard Herge as a national institution.

Shops in every major town and city in the country sell cartoons of all descriptions — but they nearly always include a rack of Tintin.



Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi

## Montgolfier's dream comes true

By Patrick Olivier

"My poor Joseph! It's a good thing we're paper-manufacturers, with all the reams you use up scribbling." Etienne Montgolfier teases his brother Joseph, who has indeed been scribbling away since, one day in 1783, he had a brilliant idea which was to make him the most famous scientist of his time, a conqueror of the skies.

PARIS — On returning home from a walk in the mountains of his native Auvergne, he told his wife, Thérèse, how enchanted he was to observe the flight of birds of prey, which he had, once more, watched for a long time. He was particularly struck by the buzzard. Barely after taking off, it hardly moved and remained stationary in the sky. Just like Icarus and many men since then, Joseph Montgolfier dreamt of being free in the sky too. And he was to achieve his dream.

Coming down from the mountains, he passed a little girl blowing bubbles which rose in the air. "Why? How?" Joseph wondered. "It's just like clouds... they can manage to fly," he thought. That same evening, his wife asked him to warm her nightgown by the fire, which he did by hanging it up in front of the hearth. And to his astonishment, it rose up in the air. "That's it," he thought. Some canvas and hot air. Joseph, who had an

idea every three minutes, quickly imagined the same thing on a large scale.

He set to work with his brother Etienne. There was soon to be a fete in Annonay, the large town of the province. He made a sort of balloon with canvas and paper and tested it out for the first time before the transfixed villagers. He made a big fire and kept it going with bales of straw. Using the hot air, he filled the canvas which gradually took on a rounded shape and started to pull on the retaining ropes. The ropes were cut and the balloon suddenly surged up in the air. Soon, it was no more than a spot in the sky. It was later found a few leagues away. The experiment had proved a success. The Montgolfier brothers called their invention an aerostat, meaning "which stays in the air." In French, the hot air balloon was later to be called a "Montgolfière."

Montgolfier keenly pursued his research. It had to be possible for a man to fly in the air for the first time "like

the balloon. There was also the curious fear at the time, that one would lack air to breathe even by gaining just a little altitude.

By now, the whole country had heard about the experi-

ment. The king himself, who was very interested in science, summoned Montgolfier to Versailles, gave him a grant of 600 pounds and even made him a member of the Royal Academy. It was decided to carry out a

first experiment using animals (in the 20th century, the dog Laika was to be the first creature in space). This time, they decided to use a sheep, a cock and a duck. On Sept. 23, 1783, everything was

ready at Versailles for the big take-off. A balloon, "as big as a house" had been prepared, made of vellum (calf-skin) and still having paper on the inside and outside. The balloon was sumptuously decorated. It was painted sky-blue, had gold fleur-de-lis and bore the royal initials: 2 Ls (for Louis), facing each other.

The balloon was inflated, using many bundles of straw. The three animals were put in the basket and the balloon was released. It rose rapidly sideways and disappeared. Ten kilometres away, in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, the sheep was found grazing and the cock fighting with the duck.

Now that it had been proved that one could survive in the air, a manned flight had to be attempted. The king refused as it was too dangerous. Montgolfier insisted. If the French did not persevere, others would. The English, for example, who did not appreciate France's aid to young America. Montgolfier waxed lyrical: "Just let Your Majesty imagine! Millions of men, carried in millions of balloons invading France."

An unknown man, Pilâtre de Rozier, aged 24, had gone to see Montgolfier to volunteer. He was absolutely set on taking part and becoming the first man to rise in the air. Queen Marie-Antoinette strongly urged the king, who

finally gave in. On Nov. 21, 1783, the big day dawned. Montgolfier had decided to give De Rozier an assistant, the Marquis d'Arlandes. This time, the fire would have to be kept up from the basket, by stoking it with bales of straw.

When the balloon inflated, a cannon sounded. It rose above the lawns of La Muette, in the Bois de Boulogne, but it was impossible to steer it and it had to be left to the wind. It started losing height and the two men quickly stoked the fire. Paris passed by beneath their gaze. They almost caught the towers of Saint-Sulpice Church and nearly fell in the Seine. Then, they rose very high. Too high. Nearly 1,000 metres up. There was an ominous sound. Pilâtre was alarmed. No, the canvas had not split, but there was a big hole in the bottom of the iron-bound wicker basket.

Pilâtre shouted to his companion. They reached the Luxembourg Gardens and then the southern boundaries of the city. The balloon finally landed between two windmills on the Butte aux Cailles hill. The first human flight had lasted 25 minutes.

What an event! Historians consider that it created as much of an impression at the time as a man walking on the moon in the 20th century. The Montgolfier brothers became personalities overnight — L'Actualité En France.



A Montgolfier rises above the Palace of Versailles.

## Is it a boy or a girl?

By Maha Addasi

Maternity wards everywhere are the same in many aspects. There are often fathers-to-be pacing the floors nervously puffing away at cigarettes and once the child is born they feel like grabbing the first person they see leaving the delivery theatre to inquire: "Is it a boy," with a beaming hopeful smile. "or a girl?" they continue as the smile fades away as they silently pray that it is a boy. "The problem is," according to one psychologist, "many of these fathers and some mothers do not know why they want a baby boy even though some already have five boys at home and no girls," the psychologist said.

What follows is an attempt by various parents or parents-to-be as to why they may prefer one gender over the other when it comes to new additions to their families, as well as some examples that may make people change these views.

"I know this person who fell ill when his wife had a baby girl. When she had another girl he got sick again. The third baby his wife had was also a girl. When the father heard that he fainted," one witness said. "Now he has three adult girls and two boys. The boys are abroad working and the father rarely sees them and the girls are married but live close to the family and make their parents happy, dropping in all the time with their children. Now the father believes that had it not been for the girls he and his wife would have been deserted," the witness said.

The flip side to this is another extreme.

"One mother of six boys wanted a daughter very much. When she failed to have one, she started putting ribbons in the boys hair and dressing them like girls." one woman said of someone she knew.

"Now her kids are all grown up and they all work abroad, and she is left with drawers full of ribbons and no children around her. I do not want to know how they dress now, though, long hair and ear rings would be my guess," the woman said. "I think this mother knew all along the value of having daughters."

The moral here is that more often than not girls settle close to home after marriage, while single and a large number of married men today manage to find their way far from home in order to find a job. "This in turn is because society allows men to live alone and not women," the psychologist said. "I sometimes wonder why people still prefer boys to girls, when it is the girls who really make a parent feel like a parent."

"I always felt it would be easier to bring up a boy than a girl," one mother said. "I thought I would not need to apply curfews on boys and felt that it would be OK for them to stay out late," she said. Adding that this was when her twin sons were 3. "I forgot that if we multiplied their



age by 6 and added a car a curfew would become vital. Now, I feel there is no difference between girls and boys when it comes to bringing them up. They're equal in the effect they require," she said.

"Girls and boys alike have managed to carry on family businesses. Both genders have been heirs successfully. Girls carry a family name even after marriage," said one father of four girls who are now successfully running the family business.

"When a child is born it is an 'it' or referred to as such mainly because it has no personality yet. It is up to the parents to allow a child's personality to grow in a healthy way. What is the use if the son has a weak personality?" the psychologist said.

"If all parents bring up their children of both genders the same way, and appreciate what they have since some people cannot have children, then when people at hospitals ask, 'is it a boy or a girl?' they would ask just to know and not to torture themselves," she said. "And that is a day I am waiting to see."

## Pet cemetery

By E. Yaghi

"Boo hoo, boo hoo!" chorused the stern red-eyed mourners who gathered around in sympathy sharing their mutual loss of Debbie, a cherished member of the Sanders family.

Debbie's life had been short but full and she had been loved by all. She always had a knack of making friends easily. For example, there was the old lady up the street who simply adored her. She would sit in her rocking chair by her bay window, waiting for the sound of Debbie's approaching footsteps. As soon as she caught sight of her little friend, she would say, "And how's my lovely Debbie today? Come here dear and sit on my lap!"

At such invitation, Debbie would happily bounce on the old lady's lap and annoint her with slobbery wet kisses. Now, the old lady still sat in her rocking chair, but she no longer smiled. She was gloomy and sad. She would listen for Debbie's footsteps even though she knew her little friend had passed away she couldn't bear to think that no one could ever replace dear Debbie.

As for Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, they were heart-broken. Debbie had been the sun that they revolved around. Whenever she came down with the slightest wheeze, the Sanders became very concerned and would rush her to the nearest doctor. "Will she be all right?" a fretful Mrs. Sanders would ask.

"Is it serious?" an equally worried Mr. Sanders would inquire.

But the calm doctor would reassure them, "It's nothing but a slight cold. Let her stay in bed for a while and she'll be OK."

One beautiful summer day, when bees were humming and there was a smell of green leaves in the air, precious Debbie was out romping in the streets and chasing her favourite ball. She didn't see the speeding car that struck her down and snatched away her life. The careless driver didn't even stop to see if his hit-and-run victim survived or not. He just laughed out of his window with a cruel smirk on his face and drove off.

That was the end of a vibrant and faithful life. Debbie bounced no more. Her effervescent personality had popped. She was taken to a funeral home to be prepared for burial. An expensive tombstone was tearfully chosen. On the day of the funeral, mourners stood around the small grave, their heads bowed in dismal mutual silence. Mrs. Sanders could not stand the pain of losing her treasured one. She broke down and cried as the small ornate coffin, laden with red and white carnations was gently lowered in its grave.

After the funeral and the reception was over, the Sanders sat in their empty house which was filled with dark rooms and cried. Later, they often visited her grave and placed bouquets of sweet smelling flowers at the tombstone

above the grave where Debbie lay all alone.

Life must go on for the living, so the Sanders returned to their difficult daily routines. Then one day, an acquaintance telephoned with this message, "Hello, Mrs. Sanders, I'm afraid I have some bad news. Debbie's not buried where you think she is! You've been deceived! My precious also died and was buried in the same cemetery like Debbie. A mass grave has been uncovered. Many families of the deceased feel that something fishy has been going on!"

Mrs. Sanders felt flabbergasted. She and her husband rushed to the cemetery and demanded to see the director of the pet cemetery who was responsible for the burial of dead Debbie. The director, however, was unavailable for comment. So the Sanders and other caring and perturbed families of their deceased beloved formed a committee to investigate the ugly rumours of grave misdeeds. At last, after much paper and dirt digging, the truth was revealed and the director of the cemetery was arrested.

As the director tried to make himself invisible and slink into the police car, he was mobbed by the tearful, screaming families of the inhabitants of the cemetery. Their expressions were contorted with pain and great tears rolled down their faces as they shouted, "Liar! Thief! You buried our loved ones in mass graves! Hang him! He doesn't deserve to live!"

It was more than Mrs. Sanders could bear. She laid her head on Mr. Sander's firm shoulder for support and comfort. She had just seen the evidence of tufts of hair and parched bones that were haphazardly mixed with earth in a mass grave where her own Debbie had later been dumped.

"Don't worry, dear," her husband said, reassuring her. "He'll pay for his crimes. The judge will punish him and lock him away. No jury will let him go free when they see the heartbreaking sight of mass graves! We must be brave! We must think about getting another Debbie!"

Courageously, Mrs. Sanders wiped away her tears and said, "We've been so deceived. To think our little Debbie was lying in a mass grave when we thought she was happily buried where we saw her placed on the day of the funeral. How deceptive and cruel the director of the pet cemetery is. I hope he'll be severely punished! I never really realised just how much Debbie meant to us until we lost her. Now I know that life is just too dreary without her. You are right! We must go and adopt another adorable dog just like our precious and call her Debbie Junior!"

Debbie's remains have been scooped up and laid to rest in a proper grave. And never fear, for Mr. and Mrs. Sanders now have a bouncing baby pup called Debbie Junior who will take Debbie Senior's place. Everyone's happy but the director of the pet cemetery who presently sits behind bars in a prison where he deserves to be for his deception of wise fools and disrespect for the beloved deceased pets of bereaved families.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, July 18

64 — Great fire of Rome begins, and legend is that Emperor Nero set the blaze and played his fiddle as Rome burned.

1496 — England nominally joins holy league against France.

1536 — Authority of Pope is declared void in England.

1658 — Leopold I is elected Holy Roman Emperor.

1812 — Britain, by treaty of Orebro, joins Sweden and Russia against France.

1872 — Britain introduces voting by secret ballot.

1912 — Tewfik Pasha becomes grand vizier of Persia following fall of Said Pasha's ministry.

1923 — British matrimonial causes act gives women equality in divorce suits.

1925 — The Druze begin insurrection in Syria.

1962 — Peru government is overthrown by military leaders, and United States halts military aid to that country.

1966 — South Africa declares it will continue control of South West Africa after world court dismisses suit brought by the black-ruled African states.

1972 — Egyptian government orders Soviet Union to withdraw military advisers stationed in Egypt.

1974 — Archbishop Makarios, ousted president of Cyprus, arrives in New York to seek support at United Nations.

1988 — Iran announces acceptance of United Nations resolution for ceasefire in Gulf war with Iraq.

1990 — Iraq warns OPEC members it views violations of cartel's production quotas as virtual acts of war, and accuses Kuwait of stealing its oil for past decade.

Friday, July 19

1870 — France declares war on Prussia, opening Franco-Prussian War.

1907 — Emperor of Korea abdicates under Japan's pressure.

1918 — German armies

begin retreat across Marne River after being defeated in their last great offensive in France during World War I.

1928 — King Faud stages coup in Egypt and parliament is dissolved.

1943 — Allied air force stages first raid on Rome, Italy, in World War II.

1956 — United States and Britain inform Egypt they cannot participate in financing Aswan Dam project.

1960 — Soviet Union protests to United States over plan to equip West Germany with polaris missile.

1973 — Palestinian gunman seizes 17 hostages in Athens but releases them after being promised safe conduct out of Greece.

1975 — U.S. and Soviet astronauts and cosmonauts end their two-day linkup in space.

1979 — Nicaragua's Sandinistas claim revolutionary victory.

Saturday, July 20

1654 — Anglo-Portuguese treaty placing Portugal under English control is signed.

1866 — Italian fleet is destroyed by Austrians off Lissa, Italy.

1877 — Russian forces suffer first reverses in war with Turkey.

1903 — Morocco grants France control of frontier police.

1913 — Turkey recaptures Adrianople from Bulgaria.

1922 — League of Nations Council approves mandates for Togoland, Cameroons and Tanganyika.

1945 — U.S. flag is raised over Berlin as U.S. troops prepare to take part in occupation of government after World War II.

1947 — Dutch troops launch new offensive in Java against Indonesian forces.

1951 — King Abdullah is assassinated in Jerusalem.

1954 — Armistice for Indochina is signed in Geneva, under which France evacuates North Vietnam; Communists evacuate South Vietnam.

1969 — U.S. Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin Jr. blast off from moon and head back to Earth after man's first

lunar landing.

1973 — France explodes nuclear device over South Pacific island despite worldwide protests.

1974 — United States announces that Greece and Turkey agree to ceasefire in war on island of Cyprus.

1975 — Soviet Soyuz spacecraft lands safely in Soviet Central Asia after its rendezvous in space with U.S. Apollo craft.

1988 — Ayatollah Khomeini calls for Iranians to accept truce with Iraq, in best interests of Islamic revolution.

1989 — Top Communist Party leaders in Soviet Union call for sterner restrictions on freedom of the press.

1990 — Thousands of protesters clash with riot police in Seoul, following demonstration that attracted nearly 300,000 South Koreans.

Tuesday, July 23

8:30 The Family Man

Family Day

Jack, the head of the family, realises that it is better for the whole family to get together over a common cause agreeable to all, rather than the opposite.

9:10 Outlaws

Starring: Rod Taylor

A gang of villains demand protection money from business owners in a town who in turn seek help from the cowboys.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

Bull Gets A Kid

Bull is overjoyed over the fact that Andy is now his foster son, and it is a big shock indeed when he finds that Andy is not really Andy.

1982 — Koreans attack Japanese legation in Seoul, provoking Chinese intervention.

1984 — Japanese troops seize palace in Seoul, Korea.

1991 — "Second revolution" breaks out in south China.

1991 — Austria and Hungary issue ultimatum to Serbia after assassination of Archduke Ferdinand.

1992 — Rebels, battling forces of Liberian President Samuel Doe, overrun northern Monrovia, pushing loyalist forces onto a narrow strip of land surrounding presidential palace.

1992 — British cabinet decides to declare war on Russia if it occupies Constantinople.

1992 — Sinn Fein and unionists riot in Belfast, Ireland.

1960 — Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike becomes prime minister of Ceylon after elections — first woman to sit in Britain's House of Lords.

1974 — Greece's military rulers announce they will turn nation back to civilian rule, and Constantine Carmanlis returns from self-imposed exile and is sworn in as premier.

1994 — Indochina settlement is approved by France's National Assembly.

1998 — Queen Elizabeth names four women to peerages — first women to sit in Britain's House of Lords.

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## A new Buddhist section at the Guimet Museum

By Pascale Témac

**"A three-dimensional dictionary of Japanese Buddhism"** is the nice definition of the new museum which recently opened in the refurbished annex of the famous Musée Guimet in Paris, specialised in Asian art. It houses a remarkable collection of Buddhist Sculpture brought from Japan last century by Emile Guimet.

**P**ARIS — According to the experts in charge of restoring the collection and setting it up in a former mansion from the beginning of the century, which has also been refurbished, the collection is unequalled in the world, outside Japan.

At first sight, nothing predisposed Emile Guimet, born in Lyons in 1836, to create one of the most fascinating museums in Paris. He was, in fact, the son of a clever chemist who invented artificial ultramarine blue and became a rich industrialist by manufacturing this product. At the age of 24, Emile took over from his father. He learnt ceramics, painting and musical composition and he travelled widely abroad. His discovery of Egypt in 1865 was decisive in that it opened up new horizons for him in archeology, philosophy and ancient religions.

In 1876, he set off for Japan, sent on a scientific mission by the Ministry of Public Education and Fine-Arts, accompanied by the painter Félix Régamey. But, he was fascinated by his discovery of the Far East and visited temples, met monks and made purchases. "Guimet is very pleased," wrote Régamey, his travelling companion. "He is making an enormous collection of earthenware and an even more enormous one of good old comical gods." According to his report to the ministry about his mission, the industrialist brought back "more than three hundred Japanese religious paintings, six hundred sacred statues and a collection of a thousand books."

In 1879, after becoming an active and passionate orientalist, Emile Guimet founded the Guimet Museum in Lyons and donated it to the state. Ten years later, it was to be transferred to Paris and officially opened in Place

d'Iéna on Nov. 20, 1889 in the presence of the French President Sadi Carnot.

### Buddhist pantheon brought back to life

In accordance with the industrialist's wishes, it was, at the time, a museum of the history of religions where objects illustrating the religions of Asia were presented together with those of classical antiquity and Egypt. But, in 1945, the museum's vocation changed, the artefacts from Egypt and from antiquity were moved to the Louvre and new collections arrived in the Guimet Museum. These were the fruits of quest by French scholars and archeologists throughout Asia and they were completed by the old Asian collections from the Louvre. In this way, one of the richest museums of Asian arts in the world came into being.

Mr. Guimet's "good old comical gods" were relegated to the annex which was the former mansion of the American industrialist Alfred Heidelberg, located a few houses away in Avenue d'Iéna, where they were to gather dust in general indifference. That was until the day when a professor at the Collège de France, Bernard

Frank, became keen on these Buddhist statues. He was soon followed by the curators of the Musée Guimet and by the Minister of Culture Jack Lang. Emile Guimet's Japanese Buddhist pantheon was thus to return to life with 250 works completed by about thirty Chinese Buddhist items taken from the museum's reserves.

Japan generously contributed to the restoration of the collection and the mansion which cost some eight million francs.

The presentation in the new museum restores the hierarchical classification of the beings venerated in Japanese Buddhism in six categories: Right at the top come the Buddhas (whose name means "He who has awakened"), then the Bodhisattvas who are also holy beings, then the kings of science, the divinities, the circumstantial apparitions and the eminent personalities. It is a fabulous collection of statues with the added bonus of the reproduction of the Mandala of the Toji Temple in Kyoto. Guimet had been fascinated by these 21 statues of Buddha, Bodhisattva and the kings of science and had asked the abbot to have them copied.

On the day when the new museum was inaugurated,

four abbots from the Toji



The statue of a Japanese nun is one of the items in the Guimet Museum collection.

Temple came to celebrate a special liturgy, "the Opening of the Eyes," for the installation of the Mandala.

On the way, they hailed the statue of Chujo Hime, a

princess who, in the 8th century, became a nun out of love for Buddha and who has, in a way, become the mascot of the new museum — L'Actualité En France.

## Irish director makes a modest film

By Bob Thomas

The Associated Press

**L**OS ANGELES — After his success with *Mona Lisa*, Irish filmmaker Neil Jordan was lured away for two Hollywood-style films.

Now he's returning to his roots for *The Miracle*, which unfolds like a literate short story.

"I like language in movies," he remarked. "Language has been thrown out of movies for the past 10 years.

What you get are grunts and monosyllables. I wanted to write something where the language is rich. I remember enjoying the comedies of the '30s and '40s where people really spoke."

Jordan decided to write a script about his hometown, Bray — a "tacky backwater resort" near Dublin. The story centres on a teenage boy and girl who enliven their humdrum lives by weaving fantasies around the townspersons they observe.

The drama begins when their interest focuses on a mystery woman who's acting in a touring production.

When he wrote the script, he had in mind American actress Beverly D'Angelo. Donal McCann, one of Ireland's most distinguished actors, D'Angelo plays the mysterious stranger and McCann the boy's drunken musician-father.

"Hollywood has its own rules, doesn't it?" he commented. "I'm a director, I write my own material. It's difficult for me to work well if things are not very deeply felt ...

"With the films that I've made in Europe, England and Ireland, there's no question of authorship. The idea of control is the responsibility of the director. In Hollywood there are many bosses."

The *Miracle* will have a slow release across the country. Miramax Films has not submitted the film for a rating — not unusual for independent companies selling a film to art houses and other select theatres rather than major chains.

## Lou Diamond Phillips talented behind camera, too

By Bob Thomas

The Associated Press

**L**OS ANGELES — The notion came to him, Lou Diamond Phillips recalls, as he was idling his motor at a busy intersection here.

The result of that traffic jam brainstorm can be seen in theatres this month as the film, *Ambition*. The credits bear the legend: "Written by Lou Diamond Phillips."

"A lot of people will be surprised by this writing credit," concedes the 29-year-old actor, who also stars in the film.

"The truth of the matter is that I've been writing for as long as I've been acting. The

very first thing that I acted in was a class project that I wrote when I was 10. I have eight complete screenplays collecting dust, sitting in the drawers and saying, 'me next.'

In *Ambition* Diamond plays a mystery writer who is researching his next book by interviewing a recently freed serial killer, played by Clancy Brown. The writer finds himself being drawn into the mind of the murderer, with catastrophic results.

*Ambition* also stars Cecilia Peck as Diamond's girlfriend and Academy Award-winner Hwang S. Ngor (*The Killing Fields*) as his father.

Screenwriter Diamond designed his own character as a Filipino, which is his major heritage. He is also part Spanish, Hawaiian and Cherokee. Born in the Philippines, he moved to the United States with his mother and her second husband, a naval officer. After graduating in theatre from the University of Texas, he appeared in local plays and films, then landed a bit part on the television series *Dallas*.

The lead role in the *Ritchie Valens* biography *La Bamba* made Diamond a star. His mixed background has allowed him to play various ethnicities in such films as *The*

*Young Guns I and II*, *Stand And Deliver*, *Disorganized Crime*, *Renegades*, *A Show Of Force* and the upcoming *The Dark Wind* and *Agakuk*.

Unlike most screenwriters, Diamond didn't have to go through the humbling ritual of shopping his script around to the major studios. Instead, *Ambition* became the first film of *Spirit*, a company headed by producer Richard E. Johnson and director Scott D. Goldstein. Production took place last summer in Los Angeles.

"As a writer, I am fortunate that I don't have to sell a script to put bread and butter on the table," he said.

He has avoided the major studios, he explained, because he wanted to maintain a degree of control, and because his screenplays don't fit into stunts or special effects or even action. I hope they will be character-driven and plot-driven."

Diamond wouldn't reveal the budget of *Ambition*. "The producers would shoot me if I did."

Now that he has the writing credit, will Diamond try directing next?

"Right now there are plans for me to direct my own screenplay in the fall," he smiled. "We are tiptoeing into pre-production on that. I'll do one more film as an actor, and right after that, hopefully, we'll go whole-hog into getting my own film made."

## Ayala - a 'green' pioneer in the land of pop

By Joe Miller

The Associated Press

**M**ANILA — The first time Joey Ayala performed in public, he sang a "green" song that got him kicked out of school for two weeks.

Back then, green in the Philippines meant dirty, or off-colour. Fifteen years late, most of Ayala's repertoire is green — but green in the trees-and-rivers sense. And it's made him perhaps the most popular folk singer in this music-made archipelago.

Ayala's songs have become anthems for environmental consciousness, for peace, for thinking hard about one's place in the world. They have been choreographed by the national ballet company; they enliven documentary films; they are even featured in popular movies.

But after years of singing mostly to university students and political activists, the 35-year-old Ayala has decided to sign a contract with a major record company and enter what he calls, "a marketing phase." The new direction frightens many of his fans, who are afraid their favorite songwriter is selling out. But if it works, the Philippines will wind up with one of the most eloquent and effective environmental advocates in the developing world.

"I look at it more as a challenge," he says, sitting in the shade of a tree outside a borrowed house not far from the University of the Philip-

pines' main campus. "How can I impart something of substance, and still make it so that the (record) company will not be unhappy? I think most commercial artists are so keen on making the company happy that they forget about substance. But I think I have a chance to push the limits of commercialism, and push the limits of relevance — to push them together."

It won't be easy. Many Filipinos who hear Ayala's songs for the first time assume they are ideological or dangerous. "People are so used to Top 40, so everything that's different they say is anti-establishment," Ayala complains. "Even the fact that someone is using pieces of wood for instruments. He's not using synthesizers, he's using wood! It's bad for business!"

The Philippines has been dubbed the most musical country, but it has long suffered from an addiction to imitation. Sing-alike contests are stepping stones to daytime television contracts; daytime TV is a stepping-stone to the recording studio. Radio is immensely popular, and American-style pop music is king — the schmoozier the better. There is no shortage of political music, but it is generally of the righteous raised-fist variety.

Ayala, whose parents are both artists in the southern city of Davao, is hardly a

rebel. He has resisted getting involved in political movements, and says most of his songs are about opening one's eyes and taking stock of the world. "One thing I try to do with my songs is make them work on a literal level and make them work on a symbolic level," he explains. "They hit you emotionally, they hit you intellectually — and the music itself hits you physically. It's a very solid thing. If you miss one, you don't miss the other two."

The songs do work. Written in Filipino, the national language, they are both poetic and persuasive. And they're often fun. Ayala is an excellent guitarist whose influences range from Mediterranean to Indonesian, Beatles to tribal Filipino. His voice is strong and supple. The songs — whether ballads or dance numbers — exhibit a rare vitality that comes from a solid marriage of music and message.

"I will write a love song where the image is that of the lover as a tree, asking the wind to take its love to a friend who isn't there," he says. "It's environmental in that it will heighten your consciousness of trees and wind and fruit and leaves. What is the theme? I don't know. The message and the imagery are intertwined."

"I have a song about a turtle," he continues. "The person who is singing the song is asking the turtle to

teach him how to make light with indigenous culture — and indigenous music — has been one of the most difficult challenges Ayala has faced. "There's a major question we have to ask. Should you preserve, or evolve, or assimilate? Preservation is what the ministry of tourism is doing. It's what people do when they buy the costumes and put them on their dancers and put them on stage. That's preservation. It's like mummifying. Museumizing things. But when you go to the tribes, they don't want that. They want to survive, they want to blend into the mainstream culture."

Ayala sees himself as a teacher as much as an entertainer. Last year he toured the country with his band, Bagong Lumad (New Tradition), performing an environmental programme complete with a slide show and between-songs mini-lectures about environmental principles.

The environmental message is strengthened by the use of indigenous instruments — gongs, chimes, bells, wood blocks, bamboo jaw harps and a two-stringed dulcimer called the *hegalong*.

"The *hegalong* I play has two electronic pick-ups on it," he says, "so it's no longer a traditional instrument. Neither do I play it in a traditional way. As far as I'm concerned that's fine.

After all, that's one environmental principle: make do with what you have."

He recounts an experience he had while visiting a tribe in Mindanao. "We were sitting around and some people came over and started singing to us. We asked our translators, is this a traditional song? They said, we have a hard time answering, because it seems that the melody is traditional, but the words are contemporary. They're

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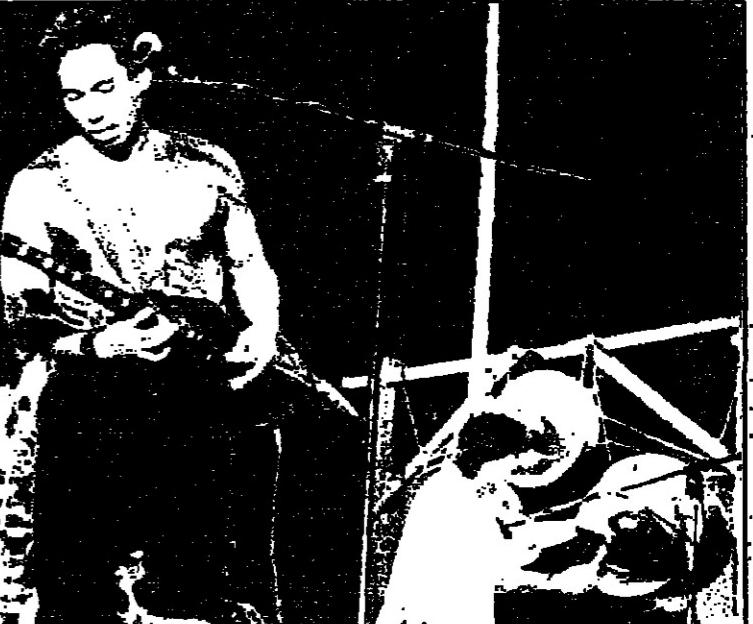
That understanding has been behind his willingness to use indigenous themes and instruments in his own music.

He's not a purist. "The *hegalong* I play has two electronic pick-ups on it," he says, "so it's no longer a traditional instrument.

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Highly original in his outlook on music, Joey Ayala is a rising star on the Asian firmament.

saying, "we saw you from a distance, we saw you coming up, and we were wondering what you need from us. We are so poor now, what can we give you? That sort of thing. The melody is something they all know, but they make up the words on the spot. It's a stupid question to ask, is it traditional? It's not relevant at all."

The experience helped lead him to a realisation that has become fundamental to his music. "I have learned that music is not just something you perform for other people," he says. "It is something you use as a vehicle to communicate."

The desire to communicate

led Ayala to start writing songs in Filipino after starting out writing in English. His English songs, he says, were mostly serious and introspective. Using Filipino allowed him to be more down to earth, more playful. It also brought him closer to his audience. "I started writing seriously in Filipino in about 1976. It was partly because of my experience in theatre in Davao. The gut reaction of people seemed to be a lot stronger, and more gratifying to me as an artist."

Ayala has performed in Canada, the United States and Malaysia. He says he is aware of the surge in interest in "ethnic" music in the

## A gun to unblock arteries

By Jean Chabrier

**PARIS** — A very important convention on cardiology was recently held in Nice. One of the important subjects discussed was the method of unblocking arteries using new technological progress. The dreaded consequences of blocked arteries are well-known for their effect on the heart and the arteries of the vital organs and limbs.

The early 80s saw an explosion in the use of angioplasty of the coronary arteries, which consists in inserting a thin probe with a tiny balloon on the end, right to the place where the artery is narrowed. The balloon is then inflated according to the caliber of the artery being unblocked and, just like for a blocked pipe, the artery is "cleaned out."

The method is certainly effective and is still widely used today, but after the initial enthusiasm, it was

noticed that in 30 per cent of cases the blockage was formed again in the following months. These failures result from the fact that the patches of atheroma are not really destroyed but simply squashed or pushed back.

This led to the idea of replacing the tiny balloon by a rotating bore, but this system did not prevent the artery from closing up again either. Moreover, when the vessel was completely blocked up, neither of these methods could be used as there was no way through.

The problem of completely destroying the patches of atheroma for good, remained. Scientists thought of using a laser which would make it possible to send a large quantity of energy onto a tiny surface using an optical fiber, which is both flexible and thin, inserting it into a vessel through the skin and

following the vessel right to the place where the caliber was reduced or completely fluorescence.

### A risk of perforation

The aim is to create a sufficiently wide passageway to allow the artery to regain its normal caliber, while, at the same time, avoiding the disaster of perforating the artery wall. Recent progress has led to ever thinner fibers grouped together in bundles.

Secondly, instead of sending relatively long light impulses lasting about a second, very short impulses (lasting a millisecond) are now emitted with a pulse-laser, thereby reducing the effect of heat, limiting the phenomena of vaporisation and increasing the destructive effect on patches of atheroma even if they are totally calcified.

Participants at "Cardiotest 90" in Nice, thus gave a round-up of these new techniques.

### Techniques.

— For the time being, angioplasty by laser is only used in cases in which it is impossible to use the tiny balloon: Complete blockage, or old or calcified organised lesions as well as those which are too long. In other cases, the balloon method is preferred.

— Concerning the arteries in the limbs and, generally speaking, the large vessels, even in the case of complete blockage, immediate success is obtained in 85 per cent of cases. However, even if repermeabilisation is followed by dilation, success in the medium term of 18 months remains at around 65 per cent which is considerable when one considers the prognosis for these diseases barely a dozen years ago.

— Concerning coronary arteries, a certain number of conditions which have only been drawn up in the last few months allow the laser to be used. It has been necessary to wait for the arrival of multibeam catheters, the development of effective coupling between the laser transmitter and the optical fibers from ultra-violet sources or distant infra-red ones. The first study, begun in May 1990 in Henri Mondor Hospital in Paris, concerned 16 patients. Success was obtained in 15 cases, 6 of which were complete blockages. It is obviously far too early to draw any formal conclusions from this.

— Concerning the risk of perforating the artery wall by inaccurate firing, which is the stumbling block in these techniques, several processes in which the French distinguished themselves exist: Endovascular ultrasound which provides real picture of the cross-section of the artery, and spectroscopy and tissue analysis by fluorescence which

has been undergoing tests for three years at Henri Mondor Hospital. Before each laser shot is fired, this makes it possible to obtain the separation between the tissues which have to be destroyed and those which have to be spared, using the same fiber.

Another process is to administer a product making atherosomatous tissue light-sensitive (tetracycline, hematoporphyrin, carotene, etc.) which would once again make it possible to distinguish between the tissues.

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Endoscopy and laser enable surgery to make amazing progress.

## As sugar substitutes proliferate, so do worries over health risks

By David E. Kalish

**NEW YORK** — Plans by industry to market new sugar substitutes to U.S. consumers during the next few years have rekindled a debate about the potential health risks of these artificial sweeteners.

While heavy sugar consumption has been blamed for contributing to tooth decay and possibly obesity, critics warn that some of the alternatives are no bargain either.

The health question is intensifying as manufacturers scramble to take advantage of the upcoming expiration of Monsanto Co.'s exclusive right to market Aspartame in the United States. Aspartame is the key ingredient in Monsanto's hugely popular Nutrasweet brand sweetener.

Monsanto's 10-year patent for Aspartame runs out in December 1992, and competitors are lining up to produce Aspartame or alternative sweeteners that they claim are better tasting or more versatile than Nutrasweet.

In addition, Monsanto is petitioning the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market Aspartame sweetener in heated products, an expansion beyond its use in table-top sweeteners, soft drinks, whipped toppings and other cold foods.

The Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), a Washington-based consumer group, criticizes many of the sweetener entries in its new book, *Safe Food: Eating Wisely In A Risky World*.

Monsanto vigorously de-

fends the safety of Aspartame and says it was sufficiently tested to the satisfaction of federal regulators. But critics question the thoroughness of some of the research.

Utah State University researchers, for example, have found that Aspartame caused irregularities in some brain functions of laboratory mice, which said could explain some of the complaints associated with Nutrasweet. They said consumers of Nutrasweet should not be alarmed by the test results, but called for more study.

Others have warned pregnant women to avoid Aspartame because of unknown consequences to fetuses.

The FDA and the National Centres for Disease Control have received hundreds of

consumer complaints of headaches, dizziness and insomnia in regard to Aspartame, but have said tests reveal no problems with the sweetener.

"It tell people if you are having one of those reactions, just avoid the product," said Lisa Lefferts, staff scientist at CSPI and co-author of the consumer group's book.

In addition, one of 20,000 babies is born without the ability to metabolise phenylalanine, one of the two amino acids that make up Aspartame. Toxic levels of this substance in their blood can result in mental retardation, and the FDA requires all packaged goods containing Aspartame to bear a notice warning such people against their consumption of it.

One study found a somewhat increased risk of brain tumours among laboratory mice fed Aspartame, but a subsequent test could not duplicate those findings, the CSPI book said. Critics say that because Aspartame is so widely used the FDA should have required the manufacturer to conduct a more definitive study.

Consumer groups also expressed concern about Ace-sulfame-K, approved by the FDA for limited use in 1988 and now mixed with several flavours of Trident sugarless gum. The sweetener goes by Ack and is manufactured by Hoechst Celanese, a German company with U.S. headquarters in Somerville, N.J.

Hoechst Celanese said the company has conducted tests thoroughly demonstrating the product's safety.

But Mr. Lefferts said a test on laboratory mice found Ack caused an increase in the incidence of breast tumours and another study showed an increase in the incidence of lung tumours.

Some of the most formidable competition to Nutrasweet may come from Sucralose, an ingredient from Johnson and Johnson's McNeil Speciality Products Division that may win FDA approval as early as this year.

"We feel they are satisfied Sucralose is safe," said Nancy Walker, spokeswoman for the New Brunswick, N.J.,

Industry Group are petitioning the FDA to bring back Cyclamate. The sweetener was banned in 1969 after tests showed that when combined with other chemicals the substance could promote cancer.

Responding to concern that Saccharin appeared to increase slightly the risk of cancer, the government in 1978 required food manufacturers to warn consumers on the label that the use of the artificial sweetener may be hazardous.

Saccharin, the leading artificial sweetener before Nutrasweet's debut, is still used in consumer products including some soft drinks and the table-top sweetener Sweet'N Low.

Abbott Laboratories and the Calorie Control Council

## Weekend Crossword

**BOUQUET**

By Henry Salzandler

**CROSS**  
1 Army beds  
2 Advertising device  
10 Copes  
14 Amphibian  
18 Nobel chemist  
20 Cope  
21 Run off to marry  
22 Respond  
24 A Guthrie  
25 Sodden Willow  
26 Sedive Pother film  
26 Fred or Ethel on TV  
27 Wester's stand  
29 Ultata  
30 — and Magog  
31 Series of  
34 Donmion  
36 Century plant  
38 Spho  
40 Rands  
42 Rands  
43 Fortys  
44 Bakery product  
45 Solitary  
46 Katherine Hepburn film  
49 Mrs. Moore  
51 Marquise  
53 Reproduced as a tem  
54 Letter messenger  
56 Letter adjunct abber  
58 Case for small  
59 h town  
63 Brownish orange color  
66 Tell — the marmes  
69 Easy task  
70 Wind dir  
72 Small dogs  
90 Goldie Hawn film  
91 Good easy task  
92 Wind dir  
93 Sonnet river

70 "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon" 88 Flavorful  
72 "The Goldilocks" 100 Transported  
73 "Gone or Bravo" 102 Macbeth's title  
74 "Gone or Bravo" 103 Wastery  
75 Owl's call 105 Calm  
77 Fr. composer Erik Satie 109 Decades  
78 Dove stand-in 110 Decades  
79 Grecian 111 Western on Light  
81 Indians 115 Jessica Tandy film  
83 Map abbr. 121 Apece  
84 Melechoreus 122 Apece  
85 Piercing 123 Vow into office  
87 Cosmetical 124 Murphy or Albert  
88 Soft 125 Caustic solutions  
90 Goldie Hawn film 127 Acid lang —  
91 Good easy task 128 Encounters  
92 Wind dir 129 Abste  
93 Sonnet river

57 Panatele or letters 92 Grot  
58 Connecting rm 93 Most expensive  
59 Man Ladd film 94 Little pieces  
60 Kite 95 Maggot old style  
61 True up arrow 96 Maggot old style  
62 Deeply felt 97 False appearance  
63 Kinescap 100 Pass as time  
64 Kite 104 Color component  
65 Letters 106 Turns bad  
66 Turn 107 "Steppenwolf"  
67 Damsel 111 Waller Hems  
68 Damselfly 112 Handmade  
69 Duke — 113 Legs  
70 Incite 114 Consul  
71 Literary style 117 Video cassette  
72 Letters 118 Diamonds  
73 Letters 119 Pose  
74 Letters 120 Affirmative

Last Week's Cryptogram

1. Poor dull-witted farmer endured many fruitless years trying to grow seedless pomegranates.  
2. Hot salesperson sold gold polka dot bow ties with ribbons to big kids.  
3. The wild young artist made unusual mobile, using his hair spray on a spider web.  
4. Expert accountant, in April, could feel he is "deep in the heart of taxes."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. O.M. URPZ UP GTP YGOR. LI LO IRPZ SB IM SO IM BSI SB MY ORSI SB. — By Ed Riddelson

2. KOCH X QVIANE CXFH ZKRCF NEO X PRBRIEQBEZ PXQVEKO QVKVN NIXJJAF EO HAQBAIFXHQ FIXJAI. — By Gordon Miller

3. YAL JHLUAALKN RAUSSUAH. PURL M OTELP OQNSLKG. VMN X NPQ SMAMPLE V.L.J. — By Barbara J. Rugg

4. O YALSLC SCALE NOCY: QCPXY SP ENLY PUL QPXUY. — By Norton Rhoades

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

"We regard young people as our target. We are taking our anti-drugs campaign to homes, schools and universities," said NDLEA official Ifyke Anyaduba.

Most evenings, young pushers can be seen in Broad Street, the commercial heart of Lagos, and near a central mosque as well as around a big hotel in a residential area.

A Nigerian judge, Olufunmilayo Oni-Okpaku, called this month for the death penalty for convicted drug barons to help curb trafficking, instead of the current maximum of life imprisonment.

Mr. Adefolae said drugs were relatively cheap on the streets — five naira (150 cents) for a pinch of heroin, compared with some \$30 in Europe. Cocaine sells for about a sixth of the price in Europe.

President Ibrahim Babangida said this week that 15,433 Nigerians were arrested abroad for suspected trafficking between 1979 and 1989, of whom some 4,800 were convicted.

These figures are staggering and most embarrassing," said Gen. Babangida opening a week-long anti-drugs campaign.

The NDLEA said it

arrested 115 suspected drug traffickers from varied backgrounds and seized around 50 kilograms of cocaine and heroin in Nigeria in the first quarter of this year. Most of the arrests were in cities such as Lagos and Ibadan.

Mr. Anyaduba said the NDLEA had been successful in liaising with other countries to refuse visas to some known Nigerian traffickers.

A major problem for the NDLEA, which receives advice from British, American and other drug enforcement agencies, is manpower.

It has only 400 agents, all former police and customs men.

"The NDLEA is under-equipped. The ports are wide open because their agents work mainly at Lagos and Kano Airports," a Western diplomat said.

"Most people in a position to do something about the problem in Nigeria have not fully recognised the problem," he added.

## More people face charges over spread of AIDS

By Jeff Woods  
Reuter

**MARTIN**, Tennessee — Police jailed Connie Lewis because she let a bystander give the "kiss of life" to her fiance over the spread of AIDS.

Lewis is accused of using her fiance's body like a deadly weapon, exposing the bystander to imminent danger of death or serious illness.

Lewis says she thought only of saving her fiance's life.

She had failed to tell the bystander that her companion was suffering from AIDS.

Lewis says she thought only of saving her fiance's life.

She was arrested and

charged with reckless endangerment two days after the death of her fiance, James Coborn, and is now one of a growing number of people facing imprisonment over the spread of AIDS.

Lewis is accused of using her fiance's body like a deadly weapon, exposing the bystander to imminent danger of death or serious illness.

Lewis says she thought only of saving her fiance's life.

She spent four days in jail last month before posting bail

case is the most extreme example yet of criminal prosecutions based on unfounded fears of how AIDS is spread. The medical profession says it can only be transmitted through sexual intercourse and blood.

The ACLU has already joined appeals in two cases in which AIDS victims were convicted of attempted murder.

Lewis is believed to be the first person without AIDS to be charged.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) says the

# Saddam heralds political pluralism

(Continued from page 1)

While pointing the finger of blame clearly at the United States and its Gulf war allies, he mentioned none by name. "They are doing everything in their power to delay the lifting of the boycott," he said.

The Iraqi leader appeared unsmiling and dressed in a dark blue suit, seated in front of a floral display and with an Iraqi flag at his side.

"We noted that legislation authorizing multiple political parties had been passed by the National Assembly. He said it would soon become law "in accordance with the constitution and we will soon start to apply the principles of pluralism in a broad manner."

The Iraqi leader called on Iraqis to participate in the "experience" to work together for post-war reconstruction of the country "under the banner of nationalism and pan-Arab nationalist goals."

It was President Saddam's first public address since March 16 when he promised democratic re-

forms.

Last year, President Saddam's speech on the occasion of the July 17 coup that brought his party to power marked the start of his campaign against Kuwait. He accused the emir of stealing Iraqi oil and plotting to sabotage Iraq's economy.

Two weeks later, Iraq's army invaded Kuwait touching off the international confrontation that led to the Gulf war in January and February.

Kuwait, and its Gulf war Arab allies have rejected Iraq's calls for an urgent Arab League meeting to discuss U.S. threats to bomb Baghdad for concealing its nuclear activities.

"The eight countries that signed the Damascus declaration will reject Iraq's call for a meeting of the Arab League," said Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Salem Al Sabah.

Iraq last Saturday urged Arab Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt to "adopt an urgent, clear and unambiguous stand on this (U.S.) aggression" and called for a meeting of league foreign ministers.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussen Khader repeated the call Wednesday, urging Arab countries to "bury their differences" over the Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi delegation to the

emergency meeting will leave the (Arab) brothers to discuss the aggressive threats and take whatever action they decide," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying.

A leading Egyptian newspaper Wednesday called the sanctions against Iraq inhumane and said they should be lifted.

"We believe that the continuation of this embargo has become an inhumane matter, especially that Iraq had been forced after its defeat to implement Security Council resolutions," the semi-official Al Ahram said in an editorial.

Al Ahram's call was the first from Egypt to end the blockade.

The newspaper said it was unthinkable that sanctions against Baghdad should remain in force while Israel "escapes punishment for atrocities greater than those committed by Iraq."

U.N. commissioners in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction suspect Iraq may have more enriched uranium than Baghdad has revealed, an official in the commission said Tuesday.

He said the commissioners had no concrete evidence of this but noted that Iraq had declared its facilities, its equipment, and its delivery system but only limited amounts of uranium.

## Mubarak in Damascus ahead of Baker

(Continued from page 1)

and rejected Israel's "annexation" of the Golan Heights.

The Group of Seven called on Israel Tuesday to freeze Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel was swift in its rejection of the appeal.

The major industrialised nations also called on the Arabs to suspend the economic boycott of Israel, operated by a Damascus-based Arab League affiliate (see page 2).

"There is no connection between the two things," a statement from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office said.

"The problem of settlements is very complex and belongs to the type of problems which will be raised and discussed when negotiations between Israel and the Arab states open," it said.

A senior Israeli opposition leader issued a warning note to Mr. Shamir.

"It is the first time that the major nations of the world see eye to eye on the peace issue. The world is before us, and from the world it is impossible to run away," said Israeli opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

"There is no escape but to go to an international conference..." Mr. Peres told Israeli Television.

In the occupied territories, Palestinian leaders gathered for consultations or hearing that Mr. Baker was making a fresh Middle East shuttle.

Israeli Radio said they were preparing a document stressing that the leadership would not agree to exclude Palestinians of Arab Jerusalem from a delegation to peace talks.

Israeli press reports said Tuesday that while Israel was now likely to accept the presence of a United Nations "silent observer" at a peace conference, it would continue to oppose people from Arab Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation.

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## Israelis break legs

(Continued from page 1)

when troops shot a percussion grenade into his home during a clash.

Palestinians said troops in the occupied Gaza Strip confiscated some 200 cars bearing distinctive number plates issued only to Arabs living there.

Car confiscations by troops have been common during the 43-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Palestinians say Israeli undercover units use the Arab vehicles when they try to capture activists in the uprising.

According to the army, soldiers were told at about 2100 (1800 GMT) that three Palestinians were at large near an Israeli collective farm.

It said that the men "armed with a pistol and a grenade got out of a car that brought them from the Tulkarem area," in the West Bank.

Soldiers closed the main road along the demarcation line, launched wide searches and "found that they most likely crossed into Jordan," the army communiqué added.

It quoted a senior officer in the area as commenting that the men "taught us a lesson."

## Unprecedented arms pact

(Continued from page 1)

number of nuclear weapons on each side by 25 per cent to 30 per cent. The United States will reduce its 12,000 warheads and bombs to about 9,000 and the Soviet Union will go down from 11,000 to about 7,000.

"We have moved far away from the threat of nuclear war. It is our common victory," Mr. Gorbachev said at the news conference.

The accord was announced just before Mr. Gorbachev made a plea for economic assistance to Mr. Bush and the leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan.

By announcing the agreement in advance, Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev made sure that the Soviet leader would not go home without some dramatic news, even if he did not get a massive package of aid.

across the demarcation line, the army said Wednesday.

The chase late Thursday night, in which there were no casualties or damage, was dubbed on Israel Radio as "the strangest security incident," lately in the occupied West Bank.

The hijacked vehicle was driven by an Israeli Arab man from the village of Kalansua, the radio said. It reported that the hijackers asked him to stop by a river bed.

The driver then rode to the nearest farm where he reported the incident, the radio said.

By Wednesday morning military commanders were investigating how the hijackers took an estimated 90-minute drive without being detected at army roadblocks, the army roadblocks, the radio added.

Soldiers closed the main road along the demarcation line, launched wide searches and "found that they most likely crossed into Jordan," the army communiqué added.

In another development, three Palestinians hijacked an Arab-owned vehicle and ordered the driver to head to the Jordan River where they apparently fled

## Notice to the Jordanian consignees of containers arriving on the MV "Red Sea Europa" Voyage No. 242

The Red Sea Express Line announces that its ship M/V "Red Sea Europa" was prevented from continuing its voyage No. 242 to Aqaba by the naval forces stationed at the entrance to the Straits of Tiran for inspection of cargoes, and was delayed for ten days during which it was obliged to proceed to other Red Sea ports in order to restow its cargo of containers addressed to Jordan to make them easily accessible for inspection.

Under the terms of the Bills of Lading the carrier has the right to discharge the cargo at any other convenient port and to consider the voyage terminated and his obligations towards the consignees as duly implemented.

Nevertheless the Red Sea Express Line has decided as a gesture of goodwill towards Jordanian importers to bear a part of the losses which were incurred as a result of the delay and the restowing of the containers, and to continue the voyage to Aqaba, and to collect the balance of the losses incurred from the Jordanian consignees, as the carrier is entitled to do under the conditions of the Bill of Lading.

Accordingly the additional charges which the consignees have to bear are as follows:

646.- U.S.Dollars per 20' container  
1292.- U.S.Dollars per 40' container  
(Or equivalent in Jordanian Dinars )

Jordanian consignees of containers shipped on the above vessel are requested to pay these charges to their respective shipping agents in Jordan prior to the expected dated of arrival of the vessel on July 19th, 1991.

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## WORLD STUDENT GAMES

### American cruises to women's 200m freestyle swimming gold

**SHEFFIELD**, England (AP) — Karen Kraemer came back from a split-second relay loss to cruise to the women's 200-metre freestyle gold medal at the 16th World Student Games.

Edged out by Soviet Natalia Trefilova in the 800-metre freestyle relay Monday, the 21-year-old American took the lead at 60 metres and swam to a 2:02.23 finish, 0.64 faster than her previous best.

This time, Trefilova was third behind Canada's Patricia Noall. On a bitter-sweet day for the Americans, however, a U.S. women's gymnastics team downed the Soviets for the first time in any major competition, only to get beaten to the gold medal by North Korea.

The quartet of Aimee Trepanier, Chari Knight, Kristen

Kenoyer and Joy Selig totalled 115.13 points, surpassing the 114.95 of the Soviets, Natalia Laschenova, Elena Sazonenkova, Oksana Abinden and Zuldia Hairova.

Then they watched as the North Koreans — Kyoong Hee Choi, Bosi Wangi, Myoung Hwa An and Mi Young Park — went onto the floor and beat their score with 116.50.

In basketball, Hubert Davis scored 25 points and George Lynch added 13 to lead a dunking U.S. team to a 103-57 victory over a shorter, slower Irish team in their first game of the tournament.

The U.S. women's basketball team rolled to their second rout in a row, beating Japan 125-38. On Monday, the Americans whupped Ireland 116-38.

Canada downed Chinese Taipei 99-77 and Spain inflicted a 133-11 defeat-on Guam, which lost Monday to Britain 144-25.

Australia nipped Germany 12-10 in a tight water polo match and the U.S. team downed Romania 9-5.

Minutes after Kraemer had won her gold, China's Zhuang Yong, who won the 100-metre title Monday, swam even faster than the American in the 200, metre 'B' final. Zhuang, the world 50-metre freestyle champion, clocked 2:01.97 — having failed to swim fast enough to reach the 'A' final.

"I wish I had been out there to give her a race but it doesn't make me feel any worse about it," Kraemer said.

Jiangjiang Shen collected China's third swimming gold medal

in the men's 100-metre butterfly in a new Chinese record of 54.25 seconds. Soviet Andrei Kozirov finished second and American Dan Kutler won the bronze, swimming in his first major games.

Japan's first gold of the games came from Takahiro Fujimoto, who swam 2.43 seconds faster than his previous best to win the 400-metre individual medley in 4:23.10. American Gregory Burgess collected silver with 4:24.53 and Australian Brent Hording won the bronze.

Soviet swimmer Svetlana Kuzmina downed Chinese star Lin Li and world champion Elena Volkova to win the women's 200-metre breaststroke in 2:31.60. A Soviet quartet upset the favoured Americans to win the men's 800-metre freestyle relay.

pressure in the opening set against Birch.

"It was my first pro match and I was understandably nervous," said Birch, 21. "I finally got into the match near the end of the second set. Then in the third, I could see her start to break down."

Leand, who was ranked no. 13 in 1984, got rolling against an obviously fatigued Pam Casale-Telford, pulling out a 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 decision in a 2-hour duel. Casale-Telford was the runner-up here in 1981.

In another evening match, 1985 champion Kathy Rinaldi broke from 3-3 in each set for a 6-3, victory over Terry Phelps.

Barg-Mager applied a lot of

before getting on a roll to win games in a 6-4, 6-0 decision over compatriot Christine O'Reilly.

Keller was in control from the start with aggressive ground strokes, defeating Jil Smoller, 6-1, 6-2, in 45 minutes.

Australian Tracey Morton, one of the few players not complaining of the on-court temperatures which neared 38 degrees Celsius, turned back former English No. 1 player Anne Hobbs, 6-2, 6-0, in 54 minutes.

"I'm from Brisbane and I like playing in the heat," said Morton, who broke in the second game of the second set on successive double faults and gained breaks in the fourth and sixth at 15.

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Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
		In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
<b>U.S. Dollar in International Markets</b>					
<b>Currency</b> <b>New York Close</b> <b>Tokyo Close</b>					
Sterling Pound	1.6428	1.6455	Date: 17/7/1991		
Deutsche Mark	1.8005	1.7957			
Swiss Franc	1.5635	1.5660			
French Franc	6.1090	6.0992 **			
Japanese Yen	137.29	137.17			
European Currency Unit	1.1415	1.1447 **			
<small>** L.D. for STO; European Opening at 8:30 a.m. GMT Eurocurrency Interest Rates      Date: 17/7/1991</small>					
<b>Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent</b>					
<b>Precious Metals</b> <b>Date: 17/7/1991</b>					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm <sup>2</sup>	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm <sup>2</sup>
Gold	569.10	7.28	Silver	4.40	.16
<small>* 24 Karat</small>					
<b>Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin</b> <b>Date: 17/7/1991</b>					
<b>Currency</b> <b>Bid</b> <b>Offer</b>					
U.S. Dollar	.667	.689			
Sterling Pound	1.1265	1.1341			
Deutsche Mark	.3617	.3826			
Swiss Franc	.4592	.4474			
French Franc	.1124	.1130			
Japanese Yen	.5005	.5030			
Dutch Guilder	.3566	.3485			
Swedish Krona	.1055	.1060			
Italian Lira*	.0513	.0516			
Belgian Franc	.01851	.01852			
<small>* Per 100</small>					
<b>Other Currencies</b> <b>Date: 17/7/1991</b>					
<b>Currency</b> <b>Bid</b> <b>Offer</b>					
Bahraini Dinar	1.7990	1.7980			
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0780			
Saudi Riyal	.1626	.1640			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1857	.1867			
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2025			
Omani Rial	1.7500	1.7600			
UAE Dirham	.1857	.1867			
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600			
Cypriot Pound	1.3900	1.4100			
<small>* Per 100</small>					
<b>CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market</b>					
Index	15/7/1991	Close	16/7/1991	Close	
All-Share	111.09	110.77			
Banking Sector	106.65	106.62			
Insurance Sector	119.41	119.35			
Industry Sector	115.18	114.42			
Services Sector	126.83	126.30			
<small>December 31, 1990 = 100</small>					

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6450/60	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1466/71	Canadian dollar	
	1.7965/75	Deutschmarks	
	2.0235/45	Dutch guilders	
	1.5607/14	Swiss francs	
	36.9599	Belgian francs	
	6.0950/1000	French francs	
	1336/1337	Italian lire	
	137.15/25	Japanese yen	
	6.4950/5000	Swedish crowns	
	6.9990/7.0040	Norwegian crowns	
	6.9430/80	Danish crowns	
	368.90/369.40	U.S. dollars	

**CONCORD**

Think Big

Show: 5:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Ninja Turtles**

Show: 3:30, 6:45 p.m.

**NIJOUN**

The theatre and movies house  
are closed because of  
decoration works.

## Algeria hopes to earn \$7 b from oil sell-off

BRUSSELS (R) — Algeria, hit by economic crisis and under a state of siege, hopes to earn up to \$7 billion by selling stakes in oil fields to foreign companies, Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali said in an interview.

Mr. Ghazali said he would sell off one quarter of the giant Hassi Messaoud oil field, Algeria's biggest.

"That should allow me to get out of the infernal circle of debt," he said. The North African state, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), nationalised its oil industry in the 1970s.

Asked how much Algeria hoped to make from the sale of stakes in its oil fields, Mr. Ghazali

replied: "\$6 or \$7 billion." The buyers would be private foreign companies.

He did not make clear whether stakes in other fields would be up for sale. Earlier this month, he said 20 per cent of the Hassi Messaoud field would be sold off.

Mr. Ghazali said Algeria's economy had to improve to stabilise democracy but its foreign debt was badly structured because of short-term borrowing. "We have to pay out an amount every year that amounts to 75 per cent of our income," he said.

Mr. Ghazali has put Algeria's total foreign debt at some \$24 billion. But the World Bank, in a recent report, said it was \$29 billion.

## Yugoslavia to slash budget by 60 %

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government has said it would slash the 1991 federal budget by 60 per cent as part of what it called shock therapy to avert "economic collapse."

The information secretariat told Tanjug news agency the budget would be reduced from the planned 163 billion dinars (\$6.9 billion) by around 100 billion dinars (\$4.25 billion).

The cutback is part of a plan outlined by the government last

week to prevent the economy collapsing within weeks because of political disputes among Yugoslavia's six republics.

Under the plan, which diplomats said does not need parliamentary approval, the government would restrict money supply, limit spending and freeze all selective credits.

The budget cutback was intended to restrict federal government intervention in the economy.

## Wang, IBM announce formation of a strategic business relationship

Wang laboratories and IBM announced a strategic business relationship that will result in significant benefits for both companies.

According to Wang chairman and CEO Rick Miller, this relationship is "... expected to be a model for future computer-industry relationship ...." The agreement provides for joint efforts to bridge the hardware platforms of the two companies. Wang will market IBM's RISC system/6000 and personal system/2 product platforms, which will be sold under the Wang Logo. Wang will also add IBM's AS/400 line of midrange systems to its product line.

In addition, Wang will also offer service on the IBM products it sells, and will have access to IBM training, literature, spare parts, and diagnostic tools. IBM and Wang will jointly fund and staff AS/400 conversion centres that will develop conversion and migration tools for Wang customers who choose to move to IBM technology over time. The centres will be managed by Wang which will remain an independent company.

Wang will work with IBM to define application architecture for future Unix-Based office and image products, which will include several Wang software components. This alliance is proof that IBM recognises that Wang's integrated imaging and open-office E-Mail technologies are the best in the industry.

Wang's goal is to be a world leader in providing innovative information — processing solutions that will help shape the office and imaging architectures of the future. The alliance between Wang and IBM will combine the strengths of both companies to meet their needs and more.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended easier after a day of thin, featureless trade, with investment trust selling and arbitrage unwinding the primary culprits. The Nikkei average fell 314.45 points or 1.35 per cent to 23,060.70.

SYDNEY — The market remained in hibernation with stocks trading in a narrow range and closing marginally higher. The All Ordinaries Index ended up one point at 1,542.2.

ZURICH — Shares closed little changed in slow trade as stocks rebounded from earlier slim losses after Wall Street firmed in early trading. The SPI Index closed 0.3 points lower at 1,124.4.

PARIS — Shares ended hardly changed in thin summer holiday trading, with buying interest limited to a clutch of blue chips. The 40-share CAC Index nudged 2.60 points higher to 1,758.11.

LONDON — Shares again closed at a record high, tracking Wall Street higher, after early weakness caused by profit-taking from two days of substantial gains. The FTSE-100 index closed 4.2 points up at a record 2,361.0.

NEW YORK — Blue chips held on to modest gains at midday as buying in the oil sector provided support. The Dow was up eight at 2,992.

## Saudis seek increased oil output at next OPEC talks

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia will demand a 500,000 barrel per day (b/d) jump in its oil production quota at the next meeting of OPEC ministers, a source close to the Saudi delegation said Tuesday.

"OPEC will do whatever possible to balance the market and the best ceiling for the fourth quarter is 24 million (b/d)," said the source.

Output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was around 22.6 million b/d in June.

The source said Saudi output in the third quarter would be the same as the second quarter at 8.03 million barrels per day.

OPEC ministers are due to meet on Sept. 24 in Geneva or Paris to decide output levels for the last quarter.

The Saudi demand is built on expectations of rising demand for OPEC oil, with little Iraqi or Kuwaiti oil on the market.

Planners at Saudi Aramco expected the state-owned oil company to produce 8.2 million b/d. This plus the Saudi share of production from the Neutral Zone between Kuwait and Saudi Ara-

bia would take the total output close to 8.5 million, an industry source in Dhahran said.

"OPEC will do whatever possible to balance the market and the best ceiling for the fourth quarter is 24 million (b/d)," said the source.

Some OPEC sources expect sharp exchanges at the September meeting because some countries prefer a lower production level to boost prices.

But Saudi Arabia will probably insist and a proportional rise in the other members' quotas would hike the production target level to 23.7 million b/d.

The figure is consistent with the OPEC secretariat and economic commission board's estimates for fourth quarter demand, and runs close to OPEC's capacity, without Kuwait and Iraq.

The Saudis believe that pitching output close to 24 million b/d will leave OPEC's basket of seven crude oils around \$20 a barrel in the fourth quarter, compared with last week's average of just over \$18.

They say OPEC does not have to meet the official \$21 target price and a figure just below

could nurture demand for the longer term. The chances for higher prices in the first quarter of 1992 will help quell any dissent.

According to Saudi estimates, growing demand in North America and winter fuel buying will increase demand for OPEC oil to about 25 million b/d in the first quarter of next year.

Meanwhile, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported that Saudi Arabia began building its overseas oil stockpile again in June, after selling a large portion of it in April and May.

MEES said Saudi Arabia, pushing up its output, total crude oil production by OPEC rose by 900,000 b/d in June to reach 23.1 million b/d, from 22.2 million b/d in May.

Other rises in OPEC production were a fresh 1,000,000 b/d from the Neutral Zone and 20,000 b/d from Kuwait itself. Both fields started production in June.

MEES said there were also slight increases in Iran, to 3.25 million b/d from 3.21 million, and in Libya, to 1.55 million b/d from 1.50 million.

## Soviet republics gain control over exports

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov has approved a new rule allowing the country's republics to export oil, gold and other goods without permission from the Kremlin, a Soviet newspaper has reported.

The rule lets the 15 republics issue import and export licences for goods produced on their territory, and may help President Mikhail Gorbachev convince Western leaders in London that his country is making concrete, far-reaching economic reforms.

The Soviet government still has

## Washington to evacuate Clark Air Base

### U.S., Philippines agree on bases

**MANILA (Agencies)** — U.S. and Philippine negotiators announced Wednesday that Washington will formally abandon Clark Air Base but has agreed to a 10-year lease extension at the huge Subic Bay Naval Station.

"We have reached agreement on all major issues," U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager told reporters, reading from a joint statement. He said Clark would turn over to the Philippines "not later than Sept. 16, 1992."

The agreement must be ratified by two thirds of the 23-member Senate, where opposition to the bases is strong.

The joint statement said Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage "have reached agreement on all major issues regarding Philippine-American cooperation talks" including economic, scientific, cultural, and defence matters as well as the status of Filipino veterans of World War II.

The lease on the bases expires Sept. 16. The one-year phaseout period for Clark was agreed upon to allow time to repair the bases and provide for an orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces, the statement said.

Both Clark and Subic were heavily damaged by last month's eruptions of Mount Pinatubo, a volcano about 16 kilometres West of Clark.

On June 10, more than 15,000

troops and dependents were evacuated from Clark, leaving behind a skeleton force of about 2,500 airmen.

The joint statement said the Philippines will receive \$360 million for the bases during the next fiscal year because the Bush administration already had submitted its budget proposal to Congress.

Starting in fiscal 1993, the administration will ask Congress to appropriate \$203 million annually for use of Subic.

On Tuesday, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in Washington that the United States would not send U.S. forces back to Clark because it has been too badly damaged by Mount Pinatubo.

Filipinos reacted to that news with consternation. Despite strong opposition to the bases, surveys show most Filipinos support the American presence because of financial benefits to the country.

U.S. officials claimed the two bases pumped in about \$1 billion annually to the Philippine economy through aid and spending by troops and dependents.

It was unclear how the new agreement would be received by the Philippine Senate. Before the announcement, Senate President Jovito Salonga said he was opposed to the agreement, and several other senators complained it would force the country

into "mendicancy."

Mr. Cheney said he believed continued use of Clark was "just not a viable prospect."

He said later on the Public Broadcasting System show "MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour" that cost of restoring Clark to use "would be several hundred million dollars. It's in an area that's still threatened by continuing eruptions by the volcano. There are massive potential mudslides in the area. The volcanic dust that's been deposited around is very hard on jet engines."

"So we have made a decision that we are not interested in going back," he said.

Air Force studies have put the costs of bare-bones repairs at the base at about \$500 million.

Political observers criticised the Aquino government and the United States for allegedly exploiting the volcano issue.

"A certain amount of intellectual dishonesty has characterised all our negotiations with the United States on the military bases here," said an editorial in the newspaper Manila Standard.

Operations at Clark, which has served as a major air force refuelling, maintenance and logistics centre for years, were reduced prior to the volcano's eruptions. That resulted from the diminished threat faced by U.S. forces overseas and military budget cuts.

On Wednesday, ash from the volcano fell in Manila, 110 kilometres to the south, forcing suspension of 13 international flights from the capital's airport.

Scientists said a tropical depression was responsible for spreading the ash so far from the volcano.

Airport Manager Eduardo Carrascosa said officials hoped to resume normal operations within 12 hours.

**Aquino appoints new defence secretary**

Philippine President Corazon Aquino appointed her former armed forces chief Renato de Villa as defence secretary Wednesday, replacing Fidel Ramos who resigned.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters Gen. De Villa, who retired from the military late last year, would take his oath Friday.

Mrs. Aquino made the announcement after accepting the resignation of Gen. Ramos, which he offered earlier this month saying he wanted to concentrate on his campaign for the presidency in the 1992 election.

"I thank him for the service he had rendered to me and to the country, especially where constitutional democracy is concerned," Mrs. Aquino said of Gen. Ramos.

Gen. Ramos had stood by Mrs. Aquino during the six coup attempts against her since she came to office five years ago.

### Cresson jabs Japanese, gays and men

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Evidently undaunted by controversy, French Prime Minister Edith Cresson takes more heat in general in a U.S. television interview and says that, as for the French, vive la difference.

In remarks to be shown Thursday on the ABC news show "Primetime Live," Mrs. Cresson expands on cutting views that have provoked squeals of outrage from Tokyo to London since she was appointed France's first female prime minister in May.

According to printed excerpts provided by ABC, she rose readily to bait provided by interviewer Chris Wallace in a chat recorded on July 4, well after her previous remarks on these subjects had made her a figure of controversy.

This time she likened the Japanese — already so mad at Mrs. Cresson that some right-wingers in Japan guillotined her effigy last Sunday — to "ant-like" workers out to conquer Europe economically like a hunter stalk-

ing prey.

"You see it as a hunter approaching a target?" Mr. Wallace asked.

"It's more or less the same thing," Mrs. Cresson replies.

As for the alleged Japanese worker-lifestyle, she says:

"We [the French] don't want to live like that. I mean, in small flats, with two hours to go to your job... We want to keep our social security, our holidays and we want to live like human beings in the way we've been always used to live."

Remarks that homosexuality was characteristic of Englishmen, Germans and Americans — but not Frenchmen — had already gotten Mrs. Cresson a thrashing from London newspapers and in the British parliament.

Cresson told ABC that homosexuality "seems strange to me... different and marginal. It exists more in the Anglo-Saxon tradition than in the Latin one."

"Homosexuality?

"Yes. Well, everybody knows that. I mean it's (in) books and

history and, well, it's a fact of civilisation."

Men in general don't come off too well in her view.

"I say, in general, that you can replace men everywhere except in private life," she says.

"They are indispensable there?"

"Oh, absolutely, but it's the only place."

### CIA nominee's hearings delayed

**WASHINGTON (R)** — U.S. Senate confirmation hearings for President George Bush's CIA director nominee have been delayed for two months while other officials are compelled to say whether he told the truth about the Iran-contra scandal.

The Senate Intelligence Committee voted Tuesday to delay the confirmation hearings for Robert Gates, former deputy CIA director and now Mr. Bush's deputy national security adviser, until Sept. 16.

It also authorised committee leaders to subpoena three present and former CIA officials if they continue to refuse to testify voluntarily on whether Mr. Gates knew more about Iran-contra, the greatest scandal of the Reagan-Bush administration, than he has said.

Chairman David Boren and vice chairman Frank Murkowski, said that was the only way to be fair to Mr. Gates and insisted that "this nomination is not in trouble."

Mr. Boren said the delay would in fact aid Mr. Gates' confirmation.

**Senate adopts contradictory abortion rules**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Senate has voted to allow many pregnant girls to decide for themselves whether to get abortions, then approved contradictory provisions requiring girls about to undergo the procedure to notify their parents.

The two votes confused lobbyists on both sides of the issue. In effect, the Senate addressed the controversial question by leaving a final decision for later. "I think we're in an extraordinary confusing situation," said Marcia Greenberger, president of the National Women's Law Center, which favours abortion rights.

The votes occurred as the Senate moved toward allowing government-financed family-planning centres to offer abortion advice, legislation that President George Bush has threatened to veto.

The lawmakers voted 54-45 to adopt an amendment to the over-

against such contra support.

A former CIA official, Alan Fiers, who was chief of the CIA's Central American task force, admitted in court last week that he told superiors about the scandal months before the public disclosure. The committee wants to know if Mr. Gates was told.

It authorised Mr. Boren and Mr. Murkowski to subpoena, if necessary, Mr. Fiers and two officials he said he told of the affair: Clair George, then CIA deputy director for operations, and Jerry Gruner, then chief of the Latin American division.

Mr. Boren said all three have refused so far to testify voluntarily.

He said Mr. Fiers additionally will be given immunity from prosecution to testify to the Senate committee.

The committee actions will not interfere with a special Iran-contra prosecutor's work because the prosecutor intends to file final charge, if any, against former officials in connection with the scandal by Oct. 10, Mr. Boren said.

Asked whether Mr. Matsushima would be punished for desertion, the Japanese diplomat said: "There's no problem. That's all in the past. It doesn't matter any more than he defected."

In a separate development, the United States is pressing Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to investigate a snapshot apparently taken last year of three U.S. servicemen missing since the end of the war in Indochina and possibly held against their will, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Earlier, the lawmakers voted 64-35 to reject a Republican effort to salvage part of the abortion counselling ban.

The House overwhelmingly approved legislation on June 26 eliminating what critics call the "gag rule."

The president said last week that he might be willing to compromise on the issue. But in a letter to Senate leaders dated Monday, the White House office of management and budget wrote of Mr. Bush: "His intention is to ensure that no federal funds are used to support abortion rights."

The measure, sponsored by Senate majority leader George Mitchell and three Republicans, would apply only in the District of Columbia and the nine states that don't already have parental notification laws of their own.

The Senate then voted 52-47

for a more restrictive measure

that requires a girl to notify her parents 48 hours before an abortion. The only exceptions would be in cases of incest, child abuse or neglect.

There was no acknowledgement by senators in debate that they were contradicting themselves.

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Norodom Sihanouk

### Sihanouk quits as resistance leader

**PEKING (AP)** — The warning Cambodian actions agreed Wednesday that Prince Norodom Sihanouk will resign as resistance leader in a compromise aimed at ending disputes blocking a U.N. peace plan.

In return, Cambodian Premier Hun Sen agreed to drop his demand to serve as vice chairman of the Supreme National Council, the 12-member Cambodian reconciliation body negotiating on the U.N.-proposed settlement. Prince Sihanouk is chairman of the council.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen issued a joint statement saying the compromise gives the exiled Cambodian monarch a "neutral and conciliatory role" in efforts to end the 12-year-old civil war. The statement called the agreement the best solution "for putting an end to hostility between Cambodian parties in the conflict."

"I have no party and no army,"

Prince Sihanouk later told reporters. "I am completely neutral."

Prince Sihanouk resigned earlier as head of one of the resistance groups and was on a leave of absence as leader of the three-party Cambodian opposition coalition.

Disputes over the makeup of the Supreme National Council (SNC) have prevented it from tackling the broader differences that stand in the way of bringing peace to Cambodia.

On Tuesday, Mr. Hun Sen and leaders of the three opposition groups seeking the ouster of his government agreed to ask for a U.N. survey team to make preparations to monitor a ceasefire and cutoff of foreign military aid.

If the U.N. secretary general approves the request, the U.N. experts could be working in Cambodia next month, said a diplomat attending the talks in Peking.

The Japanese diplomat denied Mr. Matsushima switched sides. "He didn't fight at all. He just defected, but wasn't a soldier any longer," the diplomat said, asking not to be identified.

Mr. Matsushima's two sisters are scheduled to arrive from Japan in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City on July 18 to help him prepare for his trip home.

He was expected to visit relatives in Japan before returning to his Vietnamese wife and their fruit and vegetable farm in Tien Giang province.

Principals officials on Monday refused permission to a Reuter correspondent who tried to meet Mr. Matsushima.

A Foreign Ministry official in Ho Chi Minh City said Tuesday that many Japanese soldiers had deserted during World War II, but most had returned home.

Japan controlled Vietnam from 1940 until 1945.

Asked whether Mr. Matsushima would be punished for desertion, the Japanese diplomat said: "There's no problem. That's all in the past. It doesn't matter any more than he defected."

In a separate development, the United States is pressing Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to investigate a snapshot apparently taken last year of three U.S. servicemen missing since the end of the war in Indochina and possibly held against their will, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

"In coordination with the Department of State, we are actively pursuing this matter with the government of Vietnam," a Defense Department spokesman said.

The State Department said similar assistance had been requested from Laos and Cambodia.

The Pentagon spokesman planned to discuss Mr. Hun Sen's objections to the U.N. peace plan in Peking. But Prince Sihanouk said progress was not expected on those issues until the next formal round of peace talks, set for Aug. 26-28 in Bangkok.

### Chinese blame floods on global warming, Gulf war

**PEKING (R)** — Chinese scientists blame the early arrival of killer floods this year on smoke from the Gulf war, the Philippines volcano Mount Pinatubo and general global warming known as "the greenhouse effect."

Meteorologists quoted in the official press Wednesday said smoke, ash and atmospheric gases have disrupted normal weather patterns, leaving lush southern provinces facing drought while torrential rains lashed the north.

More than 1,700 people have died since the floods began in May.

At least 20 million hectares (50 million acres) of cropland have been submerged and direct economic losses have topped \$7 billion, according to official statistics.

Weather experts note that while this year's death toll is still below last year's, the flood season is not yet over and the early onset of flooding has increased the likelihood of greater devasta-

tion as the season progresses.

Chen Lianshou of China's National Meteorological Centre said the disaster was the result of a number of weather factors that had combined to form a dangerous atmospheric cocktail.